

FRIDAY APRIL 19 1996

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No. 65,559

THE TIMES



40P

SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

Judgment threatens security services

Traitor Blake can profit from memoir

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT



THE Government reacted with astonishment yesterday when a High Court judge ruled that George Blake, the traitor who lives in Moscow, should be allowed to receive £90,000 in royalties from the sale of his memoirs.

The judgment by Sir Richard Scott, who headed the arms-for-Iraq inquiry, cast doubt on the Government's policy of binding members of the intelligence and security services to lifelong silence.

In giving judgment, Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division, said the Crown's insistence on a lifelong duty of fidelity for members of the intelligence and security service represented "an interference with rights of free expression".

Yesterday's ruling dismissed the case brought by Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, who had applied to recover the money from the sale of *No Other Choice*, written by Blake, the former Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) officer who worked for the former Soviet KGB. The book, published by Jonathan Cape in 1991, sold 17,000 of the 19,000 copies printed.

The Government did not take legal action at the time of publication to stop its sale — as it tried and failed to do with *Spycatcher*, written by Peter Wright, the former SIS officer.

The Attorney-General did threaten legal action against Jonathan Cape, however, unless it undertook not to send royalties to Blake. The publisher agreed but the Government took legal action to recover profits from the book.

Reacting to yesterday's reserved judgment in favour of Blake and Jonathan Cape, which did not defend the action, Michael Heseltine, the

Spycatcher, which featured allegations about MI5 activities in the 1950s and 1960s. The obligation was enshrined in the Intelligence Services Act 1994. Sir Richard also presided over the *Spycatcher* case.

Blake, now 73 and living in relative poverty in a flat in Moscow, was responsible for the deaths of several British agents after he became a Russian spy, following his capture by North Koreans and conversion to communism.

The High Court judgment was passed on to Blake by his son Misha, who said his father was pleased.

Under the law, no criminal is allowed to profit from his crime while serving his sentence, although his family is entitled to sell his story. This happened recently in the Rosemary West case.

Despite the judgment, there seemed little likelihood that Blake would receive all the royalties. So far he has been paid about £35,000 as an advance. However, Benedict Birnberg, his solicitor, said the cash had been shared between his three sons in Britain and Misha, his son by his second wife, whom Blake married after escaping to Moscow from Wormwood Scrubs in 1966.

A spokeswoman for Jonathan Cape said £40,000 of the remaining £90,000 would be deducted for legal expenses. There are no plans to reprint the book. Mr Birnberg has also lodged a claim for his legal expenses over the past two years.

While accepting the right of the Government to stop confidential information from being disclosed, Sir Richard said: "The Crown have not, in my judgment, either pleaded or established by evidence any

Continued on page 2, col 6

Blake: treachery cost lives of British agents

Deputy Prime Minister, said he felt "depressing shock".

Speaking on BBC Radio's *World At One*, he said: "I just find the decision depressing. Here is a guy who took advantage of his privileged position in the intelligence services to sell out British interests."

Blake, he said, was a convicted traitor. He had sent people to their death who were acting on behalf of Britain's interests and he was making a profit out of it. "I think, as a layman, people will be bemused and depressed that such a decision could be taken," he said.

He said the judgment would be studied carefully before a decision was made whether to appeal. A Cabinet Office official said the judgment raised important issues about the ability of a member of the intelligence agencies, who was found guilty of gross betrayal of his country, to profit from his wrongdoing.

Lifelong confidentiality imposed on former members of MI6, MI5 and GCHQ, the Government's signals intelligence centre, became a contractual obligation in 1987, after the publication of

Continued on page 2, col 6



Ballerina Bussell: "stunned" at political association. Milliner Treacy: success "nothing to do with the Government"

Tory achievers? Not us say Look! stars

BY ANDREW PIERCE,
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Look!, the Tories' breezy good news tabloid designed to trumpet the truth about the Government's achievements, was looking distinctly frayed at the edges last night only 24 hours after its launch.

People depicted in the 16-page newspaper as examples of success because of the Government rushed yesterday to dissociate themselves from the claim. Others said they would vote anything but Tory.

Darcy Bussell, 27, principal ballerina at the Royal Ballet, who decorated the front page, was "one of the success stories of the Government's music and ballet scheme". In fact, her means-tested grant to attend the Royal Ballet School was withdrawn after a year at the age of 14.

Her father, a west London dentist, paid for the next three. "She is stunned to discover that she has been associated with any political party," a



Sellars: "I certainly would not vote Conservative". Scunthorpe: turned down

friend said yesterday.

Scunthorpe United football club, which according to *Look!* could afford to move to a new ground because of government changes in the football betting levy and grants in 1990, was turned down for help. "They could not have got it more wrong. We moved in 1988," said Don Rowing, the chief executive.

Grants were given to football clubs after the Taylor

report into the Hillsborough disaster to build all-seater stadia. As we had already built one we applied retrospectively. We were turned down.

Shearer Sellars, a Swindon businessman hailed as a success because of Tory economic policies, said: "The Government's record is so bad I certainly could not vote Conservative. They don't deserve it."

Mr Sellars, the founder of



Boxes and Packaging, said:

"My bank manager asked me to do the interview. I never knew it was for the Tories. It's like agreeing to play in a football match and then discovering that the referee is biased. I was misquoted and misrepresented."

Milliner Phillip Treacy was surprised to have been labelled a success story in a double-page spread on the

Continued on page 2, col 3

Israelis issue red alert to citizens abroad

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL last night issued a red alert to all Jewish citizens travelling abroad and Jewish institutions overseas to be on guard for expected revenge attacks after Thursday's massacre of Arabs sheltering at a United Nations base in southern Lebanon.

In an unprecedented move, all Israelis leaving the country were handed leaflets advising them how to avoid attack.

The warning came as the world's most powerful leaders, meeting at the Moscow summit, threw their weight behind diplomatic efforts to halt the continued fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

John Major called for a ceasefire as did President Yeltsin who dispatched Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, to the Levant to help to mediate an end to the fighting. He follows Washington's top Middle East expert, Dennis Ross.

Israeli sources said that any revenge attack would result in unspecified "drastic" retaliation, which some Western diplomats believe could be a pre-emptive strike at Iran.

Israel's secret service, Mossad, is taking seriously a broadcast last Sunday on Hezbollah's al-Manar television, which showed about 70 suicide bombers pledging to target Israel and the United States. Many senior Israeli officials believe such a spectacular attack is inevitable.

Following the Moscow summit's call for a ceasefire, the American, Russian, French and Italian Foreign Ministers will meet in the Syrian capital, Damascus, today, while in Lebanon, UN officials were clearing up the carnage as the air reverberated to the sound of Israeli shells.

Tension between Israel and Iran was exacerbated by reports that the mullahs had ordered Hezbollah to continue their struggle against Israel and " nests of Zionism".

Troops grieve, pages 12, 13
Letters, page 21

Referee at fault

A rugby referee failed in his duty to a teenager injured in a match, a judge ruled ... Page 3

Refereeing The Times overseas
Australia \$40; Belgium B Fr 80;
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The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Brown tackles school 'elite'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

A SHAKEUP of Britain's £9 billion higher and further education system to make it relevant to the masses rather than an elite was promised last night by Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor.

A Labour government would end the problem of the 16-plus "national education lottery" which excludes millions from opportunities because their families cannot afford to keep them at school,

he said in Edinburgh. It will carry out a comprehensive review of all aspects of the funding of post-16 education, including grants, loans, fees, educational maintenance allowances and the use of tax reliefs. The ambitious aim is to prevent anyone being denied post-16 education because of poverty.

And, as *The Times* disclosed yesterday, child benefit paid to 1.1 million young people aged 16, 17 and 18 will end, with the projected £700 million saving being transferred into train-

ing. Even before Mr Brown delivered the John Smith memorial lecture at Edinburgh University the child benefit plan had come under attack. The Child Poverty Action Group condemned the proposal to scrap the £10.40 a week payment to the mothers of children who stay on at school, asking how the benefit was removed were people's basic needs to be met. What was needed was a wide-ranging

Continued on page 2, col 3

Leading article, page 21

Botham to coach would-be heirs

BY ALAN LEE

IAN BOTHAM, who this week failed in his attempt to become an England cricket selector, will, after all, be offered a role with the Test team. The most charismatic player of the past 20 years is likely to be asked to take on specific coaching duties before this summer's matches against India and Pakistan.

Although there is a general sense of relief in high places that Botham and his restless nature were not miscast on the

selection panel, it is also agreed that his talents should not be wasted. David Lloyd, the new England coach, and Michael Atherton, the captain, are keen to enlist him.

His job, I understand, could involve individual coaching of the players whose styles most closely resemble his own — Dominic Cork and Darren Gough. Both admit to having idiosyncrasies.

The approval of Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors and a man frequently criticised by Botham, will be

sought this weekend but may not be strictly necessary.

Botham, 40, has done himself few favours by apparently reacting bitterly to his rejection as a selector, going so far as to accuse the Test and County Cricket Board of a "dirty tricks campaign".

Yesterday, however, he denied the remarks attributed to him in a tabloid newspaper and repeated his enthusiasm. "They only have to ring me," he said.

Atherton optimism, page 48

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PARRIS,
COLUMNIST
OF THE YEAR**

**HOW TO COLLECT
COMPLIMENTARY
LANGUAGE TAPES**

Belgium 'unsafe', says asylum judge

BY STEWART TENDERLE
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FIVE asylum seekers were saved from deportation yesterday after a judge said that Belgium was not a safe country for them to be sent to.

Under government policy, any asylum seeker who travels through Belgium on the way to Britain should be sent back there if an application fails, since refugee status can then be sought in Belgium without any danger.

But Mr Justice Hidden granted

orders to a refugee from Togo, an Iraqi and three Turkish Kurds, quashing decisions by immigration appeal adjudicators refusing asylum. The judge said he was unable to agree that Belgium was definitely safe as there were "unresolved, conflicting opinions" on whether its eight-day limit for asylum claims was counted from the date of first entry or the date of return. This could mean refugees faced being deported to countries where they feared persecution.

The ruling was one of two cases

yesterday which immigration lawyers forecast could have ramifications for other asylum seekers. In the second case, Mr Justice Dyson quashed deportation orders against two Tamils who had suffered torture from Sri Lankan security forces.

The two were about to be deported to Sri Lanka because the Home Office said there was no longer any threat to Tamils from the Government. But fresh fighting began earlier this year.

The men made a new application which the Home Office rejected as a

repeat of their original application. The judge said the new circumstances meant that the applications were fresh and should have been taken as new.

Last night the Home Office played down the significance of the two cases but said both judgments would be studied. Officials said the Belgian case rested on a decision by adjudicators. In the second case, the judge said that no blame should be aimed at the Home Office because officials were acting on existing case law when they took their decision.

**Man fined
£15,000 for
smuggling
to Iran**

Terence Howe, 60, was fined £15,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,000 for smuggling aircraft and helicopter parts to Iranian government procurement agencies. He had admitted the offence at Winchester Crown Court.

His co-accused, David Hartridge, 58, an aircraft engineer, was fined £2,000. Equipment that included parts for three types of military helicopters and the A-10 fighter bomber were sent to Iran by an Isle of Wight company called British Aerospace and Marine Consultants, of which Howe was the sole proprietor.

New Tenant

The British model Sienna Tenant, who is the granddaughter of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, has been selected by Chanel as face for the autumn and winter collection. The French fashion house said the 22-year-old was "the perfect look for now".

Landlord guilty

A landlord accused of the manslaughter of Tracy Murphy, 19, a tenant who died from carbon monoxide poisoning has changed his plea to guilty at Sheffield Crown Court. Thomas Beattie, of Cottenham, near Hull, will be sentenced on Monday.

Murder review

The Government rejected any change to the law on murder after a 14-month review prompted by the case of Private Lee Clegg. It had considered an intermediate sentence between murder and acquittal when a defendant killed in self-defence to prevent crime.

Girl saves life

A British girl on holiday in southern India saved a man from drowning after he broke his neck diving into the sea. Jessica Richards, 16, from Shrewsbury, held Stewart Atwell's head above water before help arrived. Mr Atwell, a Bath University student, is in a stable condition.

Brothers detained

David and Paul Moon, brothers aged 20 and 16 from Tunbridge Wells, Kent, were ordered yesterday to be detained in a young offenders' institution for eight and six years respectively for causing the death of a Emily Sims, 16, by running her over in a van after a party in Bromley.

Dunblane case

A pub manager charged with stealing £1,500 collected for the Dunblane fund and £3,500 from his licensee has appeared in court. Patrick Southgate, 45, formerly of the Hope and Anchor in Peckham, east London, but now of no fixed address, was granted bail until May 3.

Labour may give 16-year-olds cash to stay at school

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A PIONEERING scheme that greatly increased the number of 16-year-olds staying on at school by giving them £300 grants is being explored by Labour as a way of using child benefit savings to raise education standards.

Up to 40 per cent of pupils disappeared from education and training systems in Cardiff after reaching the statutory school-leaving age until the means-tested grants were introduced by South Glamorgan County Council.

Hundreds of extra teenagers were persuaded to stay on at school or college after the initiative to motivate youngsters was introduced by the council in September 1994, one of a group of local authorities analysed by Labour as a tested for education policies.

As well as paying grants, eight schools began to offer high-quality vocational courses, run by a Cardiff further education college, and mentors from industry were

improved dramatically and new council wanted to extend the scheme.

"Students on family income support or having free school meals were targeted during their year at school and grants offered to them," he added.

The council, which was part of a group of authorities studied by David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, found £200,000 to fund the scheme.

St David's Sixth-Form College in Cardiff has more than a hundred students — about one in eight — who receive the grant. Dominic Bryon, its principal, said: "We have a number of students from more difficult environments and as a marginal influence this is very significant."

"It can tip the balance towards staying on in education. I know of individual cases where it has made a big difference, for example in households where both parents are unemployed or where there is a big problem of income. The staying-on rates have improved considerably."

Tom Davies, director of education for Cardiff council, which took over part of the South Glamorgan area after local government reorganisation, said staying-on rates

appointed to advise students taking up the grants.

Fitzalan High School, in inner-city Cardiff, saw the numbers staying on after 16 rise from 146 in 1993-94 to 225 in 1995-96 after the grant was introduced.

Tom Davies, director of education for Cardiff council, which took over part of the South Glamorgan area after local government reorganisation, said staying-on rates

Continued from page 1
strategy to tackle the cause of poverty and effects — not redistribution of money between vulnerable groups.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, denounced the plan as "lightweight nonsense". Mr Brown was going round and round to satisfy the various lobbies in the Labour and trade union movement, he said. Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, said Labour would be taking £500 a year out of the pockets of a family with a 16-year-old child in education. Diane Abbott,

Labour National Executive Committee member and Left-winger, said: "It makes no sense to shuffle money from one set of poor people to another because we are too frightened to raise taxes for the better-off." For the Liberal Democrats, Liz Lynne said abolition of child benefit would reduce opportunities for many 16-year-olds.

Mr Brown said that Labour wanted to end the position where young people got their one chance at 16 and either entered higher education or lost out and got no further

education and training. "In place of the old style, one-off equality of opportunity — one strike and you are out opportunity — we need lifetime, recurrent, permanent opportunities: second, third, fourth and fifth chances that up the prospect of opportunities at any stage, at any place, at any time and for any study.

The current system of post-school funding was built for the days of an elite and must now change for the world of mass education."

Leading article, page 21

Labour education strategy

Continued from page 1
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Sir Richard Scott, who ruled in favour of George Blake

Blake can profit

Continued from page 1
misuse by the defendant of his position as a former member of the SIS or of information imparted to him in that capacity."

Philip Havers, QC, representing the Attorney-General, had told Sir Richard that Blake had broken his trust with the SIS by writing a book that dealt with his career at SIS, known as MI6, between 1947 and 1961, his arrest and conviction for spying in 1961, his escape from jail in 1966 and his life in Russia.

He said although there was no breach of confidence — Blake had already told the Russians all the secrets he knew as a spy — he still had a fiduciary duty. This duty of trust to his former SIS employer surpassed his right to free speech, Mr Havers said.

Sir Richard ruled, however, that the Crown had tried to establish a case on "what was far too broad a statement of the duty owed by ex-members of intelligence and security agencies".

He said the case had established that former members of the security or intelligence services owed the Crown a lifelong duty not to disclose confidential information. Once the information had ceased to be secret, however, the duty of confidence was extinguished.

Sir Richard said rights of free expression were safeguarded by Article 10 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

From 1951 until his arrest in 1960 Blake "betrayed his country" by disclosing secret information and documents to the Soviet Union. On May 3, 1961, he pleaded guilty to five counts of unlawfully communicating information contrary to the Official Secrets Act and was sentenced to 42 years in prison.

Tory achievers? Not us say people in Look!

Continued from page 1
emergence of the British fashion industry — thanks to the support of Michael Heseltine. "It's nothing to do with the Government if I am successful," he said yesterday.

"Michael Heseltine's support is a public relations stunt. There is great creativity in British fashion but no money around for people to buy our designs. We have to sell them abroad." *Look*' claims the relaxation in licens-

ing laws had led to a renaissance for the British pub. A spokesman for the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association said: "Since 1970 the amount of beer sold in pubs has fallen by 25 per cent and about 5,000 pubs have closed." Under the Tories "We are a nation of happy and sophisticated shopkeepers". The British Retail Consortium said: "In the last 15 years the number of retail units has fallen from 350,000 to 300,000."

Charles Lewington, the Tory party's director of communications, and architect of the publication, says he wrote to the hapless victims saying: "The press is much criticised for misquoting people and giving misleading information. In the interests of good journalism and accuracy I am sending you a copy of the story in which you feature."

John Major declared *Look* was being produced to "give the people the True facts about the economy, the True

facts behind that success story, and the True facts about the future".

Conservative Central Office said yesterday that 100,000 copies of the tabloid would still be distributed to party members this weekend. "We never suggested the people were paid-up Tories. They are success stories," it said.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, was gleeful. "The ballerina has done a pirouette and run a mile."

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Man fined £15,000 for smuggling to Iran

Temporary Home Office officer fined £15,000 for smuggling to Iran

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Judge blames the referee for young rugby player's paralysing injury

By ADRIAN LEE,
JOHN GOODBODY
AND DAVID HANDS

A RUGBY referee was yesterday said by a judge to have failed in his duty to a 17-year-old player who broke his neck when a scrum collapsed. Ben Smoldon, now 21, had sued the official, Michael Nolan, for £1 million.

Mr Smoldon was a promising player aiming for a place in his county under-19 squad when he was paralysed from the shoulders down during a game between Sutton Coldfield and Burton-on-Trent Colts in October 1991. His solicitor, Terry Lee, said his client was "shocked with joy" by the result. The amount of damages will be set later.

Mr Smoldon had also sued an opposing forward who was accused of bringing down the scrum in which he was injured. Thomas Whitworth, now 22, was cleared of negligence.

Mr Justice Curtis said in the High Court the referee failed in his duty to the player and fell "below the level of reasonable competence". But "no responsible player and no responsible referee had anything to fear" from his ruling.

However, Edward Grayson, a barrister and author of *Sport and the Law*, said that the consequences of the judgment were "illimitable". It could open the floodgates for more legal actions.

Refereeing a physical contact sport becomes a risky activity. It means that referees have got to observe the laws of the game meticulously and keep strict control, because otherwise they could be challenged in court.

The referee was backed by the Rugby Football Union, which is trying to recruit new referees. Steve Griffis of the RFU said: "We are concerned about the consequences of the judgment, both for the playing and refereeing of the game."

Mr Smoldon, who the accident left with only slight



Nolan: failed to exercise reasonable care and skill

movement in his arms, will use the damages he receives to adapt his home in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, to give him more independence.

He said he would now concentrate on rebuilding his life. He is studying leisure management in Birmingham and sits his finals in June. "Unfortunately because of the case my studies have taken a back seat but I am going to make the most out of my life." He is considering a career in accountancy or rugby administration. Despite his injury, he said: "I still love the game and enjoy watching it." He coaches Sutton Coldfield Colts, the team he was representing when he was hurt.

He added: "I do not want to discourage any player from playing rugby. I hope this case is one step towards making the game safer. I will continue to support the game for the rest of my life."

In his judgment Mr Justice Curtis said the referee failed to exercise "reasonable care and skill" to prevent the scrum collapsed or to instruct the players. There had been an abnormally high number of failed scrums — at least 20 — but Mr Nolan, 54, a member

of the Staffordshire Society of Referees, paid a lack of attention. Although Mr Smoldon accepted a degree of risk by playing rugby, he deserved protection from the referee.

The judge said the injury, one of several in the game, was foreseeable. He said the dangers of neck injuries, to young players in particular, were well known to referees. Where there was a known risk, "I see nothing objectionable in the law seeking to prevent and protect rugby players from unnecessary and potentially highly dangerous, if not lethal, aspects of the game by the imposition of a duty of care."

He emphasised that because the rules were different for juniors, nothing he said applied to senior or international rugby matches.

After the case Mr Nolan, of Tamworth, Staffordshire, who was covered by insurance, declined to comment.

Mr Grayson, president of the British Association for Sport and the Law, said that in the light of the judgment he said: "I still love the game and enjoy watching it." He coaches Sutton Coldfield Colts, the team he was representing when he was hurt.

A spokesman for Rugby League said: "This decision will have ramifications for all sport in the UK, however modest and humble. We are talking about the local squash club as well."

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said the judgment would be viewed "with the deepest concern by everyone who undertakes to referee junior rugby". Much of the refereeing in schools was done "by whatever volunteers to pick up a whistle".

Rugby Union news, page 45



Ben Smoldon after his victory yesterday: "I'm going to make the most of my life"

Rapist escaped from open jail to attack again

By JOANNA BALE

A JUDGE criticised the Prison Service yesterday for moving a rapist to an open jail from which he escaped to attack again.

Judge John Curran said a decision to send Stephen Mills to Leyhill open prison in Gloucestershire from Bristol jail, four years into a 12-year sentence for rape, was a matter of disquiet. Mills escaped and sexually assaulted a 37-year-old woman after tying her up, punching her in the face and threatening to kill her.

At Cardiff Crown Court yesterday, the judge remanded Mills, 29, for psychiatric reports and told him he was considering imprisoning him for life. The judge said: "It is a matter of disquiet that a man convicted of crimes of such gravity should be in an open prison with the consequences which followed. Mills is a real and continuing danger to women and I am considering passing an indeterminate sentence."

While on the run for 15 months from Leyhill, Mills used a false passport to travel around Italy, France and the United States. He returned to Britain and met a divorcee at a nightclub in Wales. They danced together for most of the evening. When he went back to her home Mills indecently assaulted her and threatened to kill her.

After he was convicted yesterday of the attack, the

woman joined the judge and police in condemning the decision to send Mills to the open prison. She said: "It was horrifying to think that I met a rapist on the run at a dance. He should never be free to attack women again. I thought my life was over."

Detective Inspector Bill Ware said: "This woman was lucky to get out of her ordeal alive. This man is very dangerous and should never be allowed near women again. It's crazy for a man like that to be sent to an open prison where he can just walk out."

The court was told that Mills had earlier served a 21-month sentence passed at Taunton Crown Court after attacking a 21-year-old woman in her flat at Yeovil while armed with a sheath knife. He was jailed for 12 years by Truro Crown Court in Cornwall for rape and a serious sexual assault after breaking into a house in Bude three days before Christmas 1988.

Meirion Davies, for the prosecution, told the judge: "The prison authorities say the system has now been changed and it is now unlikely that a man like this would end up in an open prison."

The Home Office said: "There have been lots of changes in risk assessment and things are far more stringent now. It is now unlikely that someone would be sent to an open prison so soon into their sentence."



Cat with a taste for blood puts postmen in a flap

BY A STAFF REPORTER



Gizmo: stern warning

POSTMEN and paperboys in a quiet market town are living in fear — of a black cat called Gizmo that has savaged the fingers of six postmen pushing letters through the front door in the past year.

Two paperboys, two parcel couriers and several locals delivering junk mail and leaflets have also been scratched and cut by Gizmo's razor-sharp teeth and claws. Royal Mail chiefs have now threatened to stop delivering letters to Gizmo's owners, Mick and Daphne Smith-Howell, unless they tame their two-year-old pet. The stern warning was prompted by Gizmo's latest attack on a relief postman who was unaware of the danger lurking behind the front door in Beccles, Suffolk.

The victim, who was on Gizmo's round for the first time, was left with scratches and bleeding fingers. Mr Smith-Howell, 42, a builder, and his wife believe Gizmo is particularly vicious when they are out of their three-bedroom end-terrace house.

Gizmo, named after a friendly creature in the film *Gremlins*, is no longer allowed out of the house in case it attacks a child. Mr Smith-Howell said: "She usu-

ally sits on the bottom step of the stairs and as soon as she sees anyone approaching the door she's ready to pounce. She moves swiftly and silently so people do not realise she is there until she has grabbed their fingers."

"Unfortunately she is very territorial and likes to guard the house. She hangs on the window seal under the letterbox and tries to pull the letters through, but I don't think she means to hurt anyone."

After the first two attacks, Mr Smith-Howell put up the sign "Caution! Killer cat" on the front door, but two couriers from the White Arrow Express delivery firm were still scratched on consecutive days when they tried to push parcel delivery notes through the door. Bob Martin, manager of White Arrow's Norwich depot, telephoned to ask if

Training your pet, Weekend, page 9

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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY



THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

Bachelor farmer is left £10m by widowed aunt

BY STAFF REPORTER

A RECLUSE farmer has been left almost £10 million by the aunt who brought him up. Richard Oatley, 88, said: "I suppose it's a bit like winning the Lottery, but I'll still carry on with the farm — and I might even still play the Lottery once in a while."

Mr Oatley, a bachelor, inherits £9,983,787 from Ida Fussell, the widow of a brewery owner, who died in October, aged 88. She married Percy Fussell after acting as his housekeeper for 21 years and the couple had looked after Mr Oatley since he was seven. He still lives in the same house. All Mr Oatley would say of his parents was that they had died within the past 25 years and that he did not know why he was brought up by the Fussells.

Most of the legacy is in stocks and shares. Mr Oatley, of Rode, Somerset, said: "I've had this farm for 30 years now. I don't feel like a millionaire. If I wake up in the morning and it's fine, I feel good, and if it's not I don't. That will never change. I couldn't walk away and leave the animals. They need to be cared for and looked after — there's no one else to do it."

"It's early days, but I expect I will leave all the stocks and



Ida Fussell: married founder of brewery

shares as I don't really know much about that. Ida died after she failed to recover from a hip-replacement operation. I miss her dearly. I loved her an awful lot."

A villager said: "I've lived here for the last 30 years and I don't think I've spoken more than a dozen words to him in that time. I can't see this changing him. He's a very quiet, unassuming man. He keeps himself to himself and works very hard on his farm."

Mr Oatley employs one part-time worker to help him to fatten calves for sale. He said that the BSE scare had made life hard for him but he

believed the situation was improving. His house, in the centre of the village, is a few yards from the derelict brewery. The farm is centred on three buildings on the edge of the village. Mr Oatley said that he would not change his D-registered Ford Sapphire.

The Fussell commercial empire was founded in 1744 as toolmaking and iron-smelting businesses in Frome, Melts and Rode. It later diversified into garden furniture and brewing. Mr Fussell, who died in 1964, set up the brewery in Rode with his brothers Henry and Reginald, shortly before the First World War. Mr Oatley said: "I went to live with my aunt and uncle when I was seven and after I left school I did an apprenticeship in farming."

The brewery was recently sold to Bass. Relatives of Henry Fussell have received little of the business's profits. But his daughter, Barbara Wheeler, said the situation had been accepted for many years by her side of the family.

"It's just one of those things. Although Ida's name was Fussell she only had maternal connections with the family and we saw her rarely. She married my uncle after 21 years of being his housekeeper and looked after him well when he was ill."



Richard Oatley will go on running his farm. "I don't feel like a millionaire"

Biologist cleared of trying to kill her former lover

FROM JOHN CAMPBELL IN CHRISTCHURCH

A WOMAN accused of poisoning her former lover, the world-renowned British botanist Professor David Lloyd, has been cleared by a jury in New Zealand of attempted murder.

Professor Lloyd was admitted to hospital with a mystery illness in December 1992. Since then the "Poison professor case" has held New Zealand in thrall. Yesterday it came to a sensational end in Christchurch as, for the first time in New Zealand history, a television network was allowed to broadcast live on the announcement of a not guilty verdict.

Victoria Calder, 46, a biologist, was charged with attempted murder and poisoning. The first trial ended in a hung jury. The second trial lasted seven weeks. Throughout both trials the Crown's case against Miss Calder was based on the concept of a scorned woman wreaking revenge.

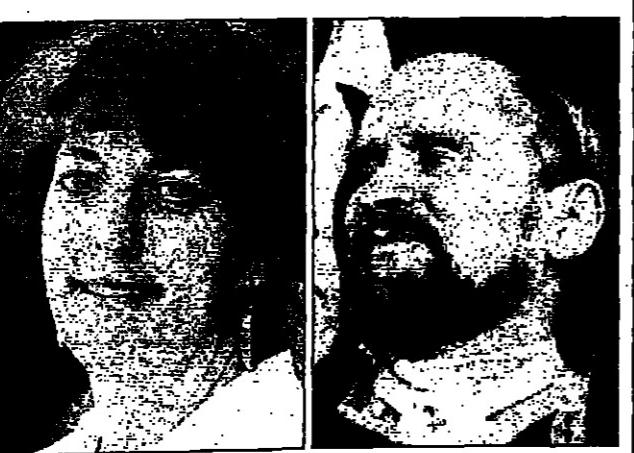
When Professor Lloyd left

her for a younger woman after a seven-year relationship, Miss Calder embarked on a campaign of retribution. She cut up his clothes, stuck an abusive banner to his car and spread dog excrement over his doorstep.

Then Professor Lloyd suddenly became so ill that doctors feared that he would die. The Crown claimed he had been poisoned by Miss Calder with acrylamide monomer which she obtained from work. Her lawyer, Judith Ablett-Kerr, insisted that Professor Lloyd had been the victim of a post-viral infection.

The Crown case faltered because having based its case on the claim that Miss Calder used acrylamide, it was unable to prove that the professor had suffered acrylamide poisoning.

Professor Lloyd is now blind and paralysed. He also suffers recurring bouts of pneumonia. Since his illness he has married the Canadian scientist for whom he left Miss Calder.



Victoria Calder was tried twice for trying to poison Professor Lloyd, who is now blind and paralysed

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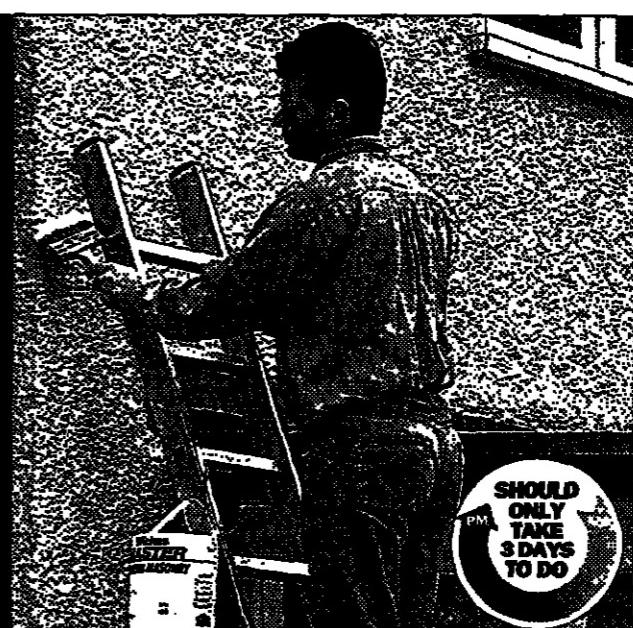
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JULY 1996

Nurses ask court to stop rapist's return to wards

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A LEGAL challenge has been mounted by the Royal College of Nursing to stop a convicted rapist from returning to the wards as a mental health nurse.

Yuen How Choy, who was convicted of raping a former patient in 1985 when he posed as a community psychiatric nurse to gain entry to her home, was restored last month to the professional register by the United Kingdom Central Council, the regulatory body for nurses.

Mr Choy, 50, a father of two, was given two years' imprisonment suspended for 12 months and struck off the register in 1986. In 1972 he received two years' probation for administering a sedative to a patient in order to have sex with her.

The Royal College of Nursing, which says it has been inundated with complaints from nurses, is to seek a judicial review of the decision by the UKCC to reinstate him. The college said: "We believe that it is against the public interest for this nurse to be restored to the register because it is absolutely vital that patients can have complete confidence in the nursing profession. In this case it is very clear that the nurse totally abused his position and betrayed his trust."

Mr Choy, who was a staff nurse for Brighton Health Authority when he raped a former in-patient at a psychiatric hospital where he had previously worked, has been employed as a care assistant on an occasional shift basis since last October at the Forest Lodge nursing home near Uckfield, East Sussex. He did not need to be on the nursing register for that post, but his subsequent reinstatement means he can now apply as a qualified nurse.

Mr Choy's successful application for reinstatement, in March, came nine months after a previous application was rejected.

Carol Dilley, nursing director at Forest Lodge, said: "This home has been on the panel of care assistants for the past five months and, when working with us, he has carried out his work with care and professionalism."

The college said: "This home has made a judgment that this man was trustworthy. We disagree." It expects the case, applying for a judicial review, to go before a High Court judge by the end of the month.

THE TIMES SATURDAY

Quiet



Now and then, the Queen

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

HOME NEWS 7

Quiet 70th birthday for Queen of celebrations



Now and then: the Queen earlier this month and, below, on Coronation Day



BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE QUEEN will celebrate her 70th birthday tomorrow with her immediate family and close friends. The Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York are conspicuously absent from the guest list.

It has been kept deliberately low-key at her own request. The century's longest-reigning monarch believes there have been enough celebrations in the recent past, and that there is too much unfinished business in the immediate future.

The day begins with a family visit to morning service at Sandringham, and ends with an intimate dinner at Windsor Castle to be attended by immediate relatives including Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and Princess Margaret. The Duke of York will be away on a naval exercise, and the workaholic Princess Royal will be at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards and dinner in London.

This birthday contrasts with her 60th, which was marked by a musical gala at the Royal Opera House, 6,000 schoolchildren singing outside Buckingham Palace, and a summer ball at Windsor for 700 guests.

There may be other and better times to come when the Queen will feel more inclined to let the nation share in celebrating the milestones of her life and reign. There is no official stamp from the Royal Mail, although there have been commemorative issues from the Falkland Islands, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, the British Antarctic Territory, and Australia.

As always on the sovereign's birthday, there will be a 62-gun salute at the Tower of London and another of 41 guns in Hyde Park. Because the birthday falls this year on a Sunday, the guns are delayed until Monday.

The Queen believes that

there has been a surfeit of celebrations recently, beginning with the 40th anniversary of her accession in 1992, proceeding through the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings in 1994, and culminating in VE and VJ Day commemorations last year, in which the Queen played a central part, drawing hundreds of thousands of onlookers to watch her Buckingham Palace balcony appearance flanked by her mother and



The baby Elizabeth with her parents, then Duke and Duchess of York, and, aged 7, with her sister Margaret



On the day of her engagement to Prince Philip of Greece in 1947, and training for war transport duties

sister. She also feels that the time is not right to invite public adulation.

This week's granting of a decree nisi to the Duke of York may have saddened the Queen, but it will also have brought her a considerable degree of relief that one of her sons' failed marriages has been brought to a decent and tidy conclusion. The other remains unresolved. She feels strongly that it continues to erode the public's esteem of

the monarchy. When it is concluded, she may feel more like celebrating.

There will be no shortage of opportunity. Next year sees her golden wedding anniversary; the year 2000 will ignite countless millennium parties; and 2002 will mark the golden jubilee of her reign. The last time Britain enjoyed such a jubilee was in 1887, when the bunting came out for Victoria.

The Queen is not without reasons for celebrating her

70th birthday. She is only the sixth reigning monarch since the Norman Conquest to reach such an age, along with George II, George III, William IV, Victoria and George V. She is already the sixth longest reigning monarch since 1066, beaten by Henry III (56 years), Edward III (50), George III (59), Victoria (63) and her namesake Elizabeth I, whose 44 years she now equals.

Leading article, page 21

MILESTONES ALONG THE ROAD TO BECOMING HEAD OF 'OUR GREAT IMPERIAL FAMILY'

THE Queen was born at 2.40am on April 21, 1926, at 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair, home of her mother's parents, the Earl and Countess Strathearn.

She is the fourth monarch since William the Conqueror.

She was christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary at the Buckingham Palace chapel on May 29, 1926.

At birth, she stood third in line to the throne after Edward, Prince of

Wales (later Edward VIII) and her father, the Duke of York, who became George VI.

The family moved into Buckingham Palace on February 15, 1937.

She spent most of the war years at Windsor Castle and made her first radio broadcast on October 13, 1940, at the age of 14, on *Children's Hour*.

At the age of 18, in February 1945, she joined the Auxiliary Transport Service as Second Subaltern Eliza-

beth Windsor, qualifying later as a driver.

In 1939, she met her third cousin, Prince Philip of Greece, and by 1944, when she was still only 18, it was clear she was in love with him.

On her 21st birthday she said in a radio broadcast from Cape Town: "My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

She and Prince Philip were engaged on July 10, 1947, and married on November 20.

Their first child, Charles, was born in 1948, followed by Anne in 1950, Andrew in 1960 and Edward in 1964.

Early in the morning of February 6, 1952, the King died.

Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen on February 8 and was crowned at Westminster Abbey on June 2, 1953.

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DADDY'S BOY, JFK



Joe Kennedy was one of the ogres of 20th century America, yet his crowning achievement was to turn a son he despised into a national icon who is remembered whenever the US elects a president

Exclusive extracts from a new biography by Ron Kessler, the renowned investigative journalist — News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Election fears force ministers to drop road sell-off scheme

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS have scrapped plans to privatise the entire main road network after pressure from Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman.

The plans were to be included in the Government's long-awaited transport policy document, which will be published by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, later this month or in early May.

But the idea of charging drivers for using the roads was seen as politically unacceptable so near to an election.

"Although the charges would release new funds for investment in roads they could too easily be presented as a tax on drivers," a government source said.

The original draft of the document proposed creating regional road corporations to manage and maintain motorways and trunk roads in their areas on a commercial basis. Motorists would have been charged through additional

fuel duties, in-car charging devices or the sale of windscreen discs. Part of the money would have been used to improve and expand the network with the rest going to the Treasury. The corporations would initially have been owned by the Government, with a long-term aim of selling them to private operators.

The plans represented the Government's "big idea" for tackling Britain's growing transport problems after the great debate initiated by Dr Mawhinney in 1994 when he was Transport Secretary. Sir George is an enthusiastic supporter of making motorists pay more towards the huge costs to society of accidents, congestion and pollution.

However, asking drivers, particularly middle-class Tory voters, to pay again for the roads they fund through income taxes and petrol duties is regarded as political suicide at this stage of the electoral cycle. Dropping the plans has

stripped the policy document of most of its original content.



Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and the borrowed car in which he arrived for a speaking engagement in Manchester yesterday. He seemed unaware that the number plate, transformed into a tax-cutting slogan by means of a well-placed bolt, was illegal. Misrepresenting the number is punishable by a fine of up to £1,000

Castrate child molesters, says MP

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

A TORY MP called for the castration of paedophiles yesterday as a crackdown on the organisers of "sex tourism" trips to the Far East was passed by the Commons.

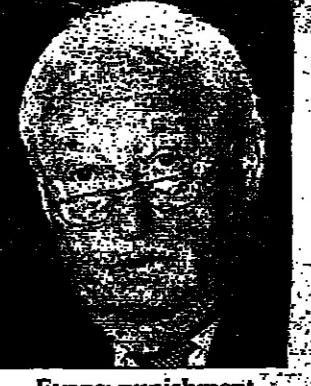
A Bill aimed at curbing holiday tours for paedophiles to countries such as Thailand was given a third reading and now goes to the Lords. It imposes tough sentences for "inciting" people to have sex with children abroad.

But David Evans, Tory MP for Welwyn Hatfield, said that laws must be tightened even further to make the punishment fit the crime. "Why not castrate them straight away, and then the taxpayer would not have to foot the bill? There would be more room in prisons for other offenders."

Many campaigners against "sex tourism" want offenders to be prosecuted in the British courts for crimes committed abroad. David Maclean, the Home Office Minister, told MPs that the Government was looking at the issue but had serious doubts about the effectiveness of such action.

"I don't want the House to be under the impression that all we've got to do is make a couple of tweaks to the law here or there. Britain can then have extra-territorial jurisdiction and there will be a queue of perverts being prosecuted in the British courts who will all be found guilty and we'll stamp out the problem. It will not work like that, though we all wish to God it would."

John Marshall, Tory MP for Hendon South, who introduced the Bill, said it would not stop child molesters. But he added: "What we can do is ensure that those individuals in this country who were seeking to make a business out of encouraging other people to molest children will find it much more difficult to do that."



Evans: punishment should fit the crime

Labour demands faster justice

BY STEWART TENDER

EVENING and weekend court sittings could be used to cut the number of prisoners held for long periods on remand, according to a Labour report published today.

Extra sittings could be used to deal with short cases or remands where the courts are waiting for reports before sentencing. Judges could also speed the process by greater scrutiny of requests for adjournments and by disallowing lawyers' costs if the court's time has been wasted. Labour says that the changes would not require legislation.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said: "Lengthy delays in dealing with remand prisoners are placing increasing pressure on the prison population and adding to the suffering of both victim and defendant."

The report shows that the number of untried people in prison rose from 600 to 1,500 in the ten years to 1994.

Brown and Cook in overseas aid row

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR'S senior lieutenants, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook, are locked in a battle over whether Labour should commit itself to spending more on overseas aid.

The Labour leader may have to arbitrate if the struggle between his Shadow Chancellor and Shadow Foreign Secretary cannot be resolved at a policy meeting on Monday.

Mr Cook is fighting Mr Brown's determination to stop Labour making any spending commitments that cannot be paid for by pre-announced savings. They will argue their case about the £2.15 billion aid budget at Monday's joint policy committee of the Shadow

Cabinet and National Executive Committee.

Mr Cook is seen by colleagues as fighting to maintain Labour's traditional support for higher spending on overseas aid.

The Labour leader may have to arbitrate if the struggle between his Shadow Chancellor and Shadow Foreign Secretary cannot be resolved at a policy meeting on Monday.

Since 1979 spending on overseas aid has fallen from 0.51 per cent of gross national product to 0.31. Joan Lestor, overseas aid spokeswoman, said in January: "A Labour government will start to reverse that decline in their first year of office." Mr Brown says that the commitment should be reconsidered.



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London, The Royal Hotel

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996
Castrate child molester says MP

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

HOME NEWS 9

Chestnut holds key to crunch factor

By NICK NUTTALL

THE peculiar British penchant for overcooking vegetables could soon be stymied by scientists investigating the secrets of an oriental vegetable.

They believe the ingredient that keeps water chestnuts firm and crunchy, even after overcooking, could be bred into other vegetables, protecting them from the worst excesses of the British kitchen.

More importantly, it might be possible to engineer vegetables genetically so that they produce the crunchy chestnut factor, even after being processed and firmed, and stop fruit turning soft and mushy during ripening.

The texture of fruits and vegetables is influenced by different types of chemicals and the way they bond or "glue" together cell walls. During cooking or ripening these bonds, called pectic polysaccharides, are broken down and dissolve.

The Chinese water chestnut, which is actually the corm of an aquatic sedge, survives intact even after hours in a pan or being battered by the canning process because of a variety of chemicals called ferulic acids. In grasses, they form powerful bonds between cells which are heat-resistant.

The research has been led by Keith Waldron and a team at the Institute of Food Research in Norwich. Dr Waldron said: "We have now found that approximately 1 per cent of the cell wall of the Chinese water chestnut consists of ferulic acid, which is exceptionally high." Forty per cent of this is in a form which makes bonds that are adept at surviving heating.

The researchers now plan to screen different varieties of common vegetables to discover which have the highest levels of the crunch chemicals.

Food, Weekend, page 3

Tale of the Belvoir urns highlights rise in art crime

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

TWO Italian 18th-century urns stolen from the Duke of Rutland's home, Belvoir Castle, were returned to him yesterday after Nottinghamshire police recovered them among a hoard of stolen statuary.

The duke is fortunate to have been reunited with his property. Few owners of historic properties have been so lucky: of about 1,000 items stolen during the past five years, only 78 objects were recovered, according to the Council for the Prevention of Art Theft.

A survey by the council found that since 1990 176 burglaries and attempted break-ins were reported by 150 privately owned stately homes that are open to the public. Belvoir Castle, with its paintings by Holbein, Gainsborough and Van Dyck, is among those open to the public. Sir Thomas Ingilby, of Ripley Castle in North Yorkshire, who co-founded the council, said that no more than 13 houses reported any arrests.

Sir Thomas explained that the survey is yet to be topped up with figures from the National Trust and public galleries. "The number of

incidents is quite frightening." Such is the interest in stately houses and their contents that *Country Life* has become one of the magazines most favoured by criminals, according to police sources. The professionals know exactly what they are looking for: a number are known to have become experts through evening art classes and Open University courses.

The Belvoir Castle urns were found in the outbuilding of a property near Mansfield. Two men are being interviewed by the police. Officers joined the duke yesterday to watch the lead urns being returned to their plinths, which have been rebuilt and fitted with security devices. The duke said: "The police have done a marvellous job in tracking them down."

The Council for the Prevention of Art Theft is calling for stronger legal protection and intends to campaign for stiffer penalties for anyone arrested in possession of items that are more than 100 years old and owned by a national gallery or stately home. At the moment, the law treats art theft like any domestic theft of a video or television. Yet, if a Canaletto was stolen, Sir Thomas said,

the nation lost part of its heritage.

The council is also pressing for a "code of due diligence" to ensure that every conceivable step has been taken so that fine art and antiques that have been reported stolen are not knowingly purchased.

"The vast majority — 93 per cent of the items stolen — are not being recovered by the owners, yet they must be out there somewhere in the market," Sir Thomas said. "Reports of items being identified and returned by dealers are so few as to be exceptional. If anything proves a need for an effective 'code of due diligence' to be introduced in a practical manner, these shameful figures do."

Burglars are going to extraordinary lengths to steal what they want. Magnifying glasses and silver hallmark books are being found at break-ins. In a spectacular raid on Houghton Hall in Norfolk, thieves constructed a scaffold tower to get into the first-floor window. Garden statuary is proving particularly popular: wheelbarrows, trolleys and lorries with hydraulic hoists are used to move off with even the heaviest pieces.



The Duke of Rutland with one of the recovered urns yesterday. Few of his fellow stately home owners have been lucky enough to see their stolen artworks again

Sacked teachers win £24,000 in netball bugging case

BY DAVID CHARTERED EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT



Joy Kirby, left, and Wendy Easen yesterday after the tribunal ruled that they had been unfairly sacked

TWO teachers were unfairly sacked from an independent school after the owner bugged their conversations in a dispute over netball matches, an industrial tribunal decided yesterday.

Jeff Redmayne, owner of Musgrave Primary School in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was ordered to pay £24,000 compensation to the teachers, whom he recorded using a briefcase with a built-in tape recorder. He later dismissed Joy Kirby and Wendy Easen from the £800-a-term school for gross misconduct, accusing them of plotting against the head teacher.

Mr Redmayne claimed that they waged a campaign to discredit Pamela Wood, the head, by organising a netball club behind her back and by trying to blame her for not providing first aid cover at a match. The women's solicitors accused him of bugging their confidential conversation with a "KGB-style device" with a microphone fitted into the briefcase lock. He then kept the tape secret for ten months and used it as evidence to sack them.

Speaking after the tribunal in Newcastle upon Tyne, Mrs Easen said: "I am delighted with the result and am relieved it is all over. I was withdrawn from my classroom without saying goodbye to my children. I was told I was not allowed to go back to school except to clear my things away after lessons had finished. It was horrendous."

Mrs Kirby added: "Since I was dismissed from school it has been very difficult trying to live a normal life in the shadow of such accusations. We felt our every move was being watched. We could not do or say anything."

The tribunal chairman ruled: "Mr Redmayne decided the teachers were guilty of gross misconduct because he

believed they colluded to fabricate an account of a conversation with Mrs Wood to discredit her.

"He was not able to say what the collusion was about. I feel no reasonable employer would have come to this decision. Even if their accounts had not been accepted and Mrs Wood's had, this could not have amounted to gross misconduct. The teachers in no way contributed to their dismissal."

The tribunal awarded Mrs Easen £11,500 compensation and Mrs Kirby £12,500. After the teachers were sacked two other teachers resigned fearing their jobs were at risk. They are claiming constructive dismissal.

Mr Redmayne said: "The management of Musgrave School is obviously disappointed ... The decisions to dismiss were not taken lightly and were made after a full and thorough investigation by the school's management committee."

£3m paintings

Two sea pictures measuring more than 4ft by 9ft fetched £3.1 million at Christie's in London, setting a record for Luca Carlevaris, founder of the 18th-century Venetian school of view-painting. The previous best price was £660,000 for a single picture.

Lottery serenade

The tenor José Carreras will serenade Andrea Turner with a Spanish love song tonight when she hosts the National Lottery draw for the last time. Ms Turner, 35, is leaving to join Carlton TV. Her place will be taken by Bob Monkhouse.

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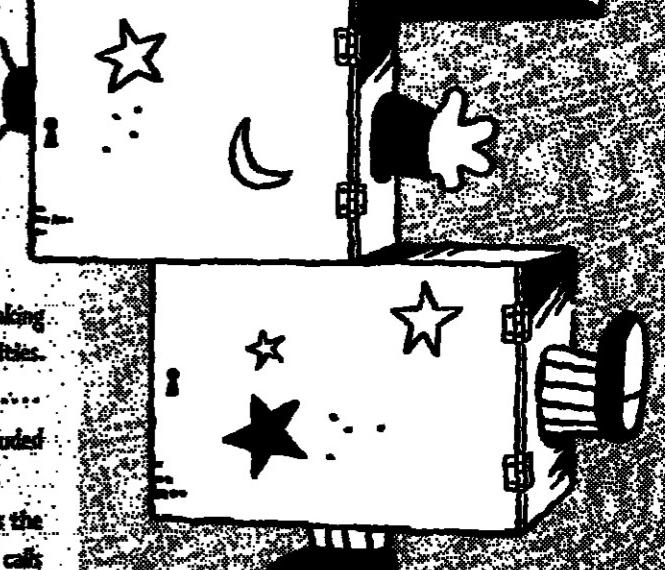
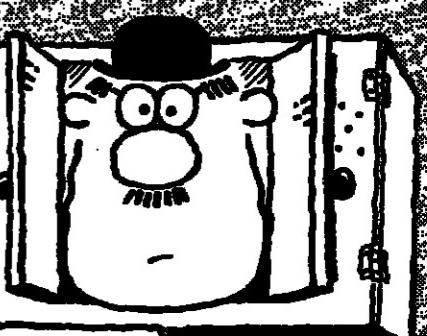
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Unthinkable tragedy that must never become unspeakable

THERE were two wars going on from 1939 to 1945. The one we know as the Second World War was between the Allies and Nazi Germany and its partners in the Axis powers. The other was the Nazi programme against Europe's Jews, and many of its gypsies.

Those of us who survived the genocide were not only unable to comprehend the tragedy, but were also traumatised by it. Although we tried to speak to an unbelieving world about it and the betrayal of every religious and civilising

principle, we soon fell silent. There was a great danger that that which was not spoken of would become unspeakable.

There was, of course, a great deal of literature on the subject.

But it was the screening of *Holocaust*, the American-made fictional series by Gerald Green, and *Shoah*, the searing 11-hour documentary by Claude Lanzmann, that helped to break the silence of the survivors. Indeed, what happened was not only that survivors felt it important for them

to speak out, but that families, friends and neighbours were also prepared to listen. *Survivors of the Holocaust*, a production being broadcast today, is the latest, and I very much hope not the last, of visual testimonies about the Holocaust.

The programme is a combined production by Turner Original Productions and The Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, which was created by Steven Spielberg after his work on *Schindler's List*. It shows excerpts

rather people whose outpourings of hearts and souls leave unforgettable images.

There are so many who speak of the guilt of the survivor. It is a feeling I understand very well. How is it, we ask ourselves, that people who were so much better, more talented and learned than us — indeed, more noble — how is it that they perished and we survived? Is there any special point in our survival?

We know in our hearts that it was mainly chance, but we also

know that our survival puts a complicated and painful obligation on us. It is to testify about what we experienced and about the loss of so much decency and goodness and laughter, and also about the reality of evil. Perhaps this can give a little meaning, not only to our lives, but also to the lives of those who we knew and lost, and to their deaths.

Survivors of the Holocaust is on CNN International at 11am and again at 5pm.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn is the president of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain

Ghostbusters to haunt spirits that put chill in Chillingham

By BILL FROST

INVESTIGATORS of the paranormal are to spend four days and four nights at one of Britain's most haunted castles next week in the hope of confronting its long-term, non-paying guests and filming the evidence. Among the spiritual squatters are said to be hooded monks, a grieving wife seeking her dead husband, and a crying child.

The ghostbusters believe that as many as four generations of unquiet spirits are in residence at Chillingham Castle, near Wooler, Northumberland. The Ghost Research Foundation was called in by Sir Humphry Wakefield after his family and staff reported strange events.

The 12th-century castle, built on the site of a 7th-century monastery, has the perfect pedigree for a haunting. Sir Humphry said: "My wife's family, the Greys, lived

here after taking it by storm in 1245 and the word is they slaughtered all the defenders. It is quite likely there are a number of ghosts in the castle who very unhappy about that. People who were captured during battles were brought here for torture and died, later coming back to haunt."

A nun who lives in one of the castle lodges has reported hearing a young girl crying. An exorcism was carried out but the sobbing continued.

Among the regular sightings is the ghost of Lady Mary Grey, emerging from a picture in the hall and climbing the stairs to search in vain for her husband. The family claims a distant connection with Lady Jane Grey, the young woman executed for claiming the throne in 1553.

Sir Humphry, 59, has seen no spirits but has sensed their presence. "I have had strange



Chillingham Castle: strange sights, odd sounds and a shiver down the spine

feelings — a sudden shiver going down my spine. I know there is something there because I keep sensing things which are not normal."

Guests who stay at the castle have spoken of inexplicable blue flashes from a fireplace. Records show regular sightings of a "blue boy" at the same spot in the 1900s. Sir Humphry's son Maximilian, 29, also claims a close encounter. "Max was at home one night when he thought he could hear a burglar coming up the stairs," his father said. "He got a gun and waited to confront him. The steps came into his room, went past him and out

through the wall. He never saw a thing. Until then he had always been there."

One guest staying in a particularly haunted wing apparently suffered a breakdown after a brush with what she described as a whirlwind and some form of spectral visitation. "She tried to sue us afterwards, claiming we were responsible for her mental condition," Sir Humphry said.

Jason Carr, of the Ghost Research Foundation, which is putting a six-man team into the castle on Monday, is no stranger to the spirit world, having confronted four in his time. He said: "We have been

in regular contact with Sir Humphry for the past two years, and we are quite confident there is something there. We use video cameras and monitoring equipment to see if there is anything strange in the atmosphere. We also have a member of the team who is psychic, so perhaps we can make contact."

Despite their unsettling activities, Sir Humphry has grown quite fond of his guests from beyond the grave, regarding them as good company. The investigation may do no harm to the castle's other role as a tourist haunt it reopens to paying guests next month.

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ROMAN Catholic bishops

should include openly

stated lifetime commitments.

The issue is of increasing concern to church leaders of all denominations as increasingly attractive venues are licensed for civil weddings.

The bishops, who debated the Government's divorce law proposals this week, said: "To strengthen marriage it is not enough to reform divorce."

At present, couples who marry in register offices can if they wish take lifelong vows in public, but this is not a statutory requirement. The bishops want this altered in an attempt to strengthen marriage and want a more intensive programme of marriage preparation for all couples.

While couples who marry in church receive preparation from the clergy, nothing is laid on those who marry in a civil ceremony. Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, criticised the lack of preparation for marriage, which he said was in stark contrast to the complex process of divorce.

He compared marriage to entering the priesthood, and said he had spent four years preparing for ordination. Parenthood held far greater responsibilities, yet it was something people fell into, he said. He believed that all couples should be offered counselling before marriage and that register office cere-

monies should include openly stated lifetime commitments.

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Cardinal Hume, speaking after the annual post-Easter Low Week meeting of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales, said: "We think we should make the entrance to marriage more difficult and not something that people just drift into. It cannot be beyond the wit of people to find something." Children should be taught at school and by their parents that marriage was for life.

Earlier this year, Cardinal Hume added his voice to the chorus of opposition to the Lord Chancellor's divorce Bill, and insisted that further thought be given to the issue of fault. He said the Bill did not underline the seriousness of breaking marriage vows.

The bishops, who had previously given their general support to the Bill, backed Cardinal Hume yesterday and welcomed the "new emphasis" on reconciliation that is

emerging in the Bill. In a joint statement, they said: "We believe that with adequate time for reflection, and provision of professional help, many more marriages might be saved. We would welcome any measures which might be introduced to give couples time to assess the serious consequences of seeking a divorce." They said serious consideration should be given to strengthening the statutory framework within which civil marriages are made.

The bishops, who met in Westminster, said that the formal promises made by a couple at a civil marriage ceremony should "always explicitly refer to the legal definition of marriage, namely that it is the union of one man with one woman, voluntarily entered into for life to the exclusion of all others".

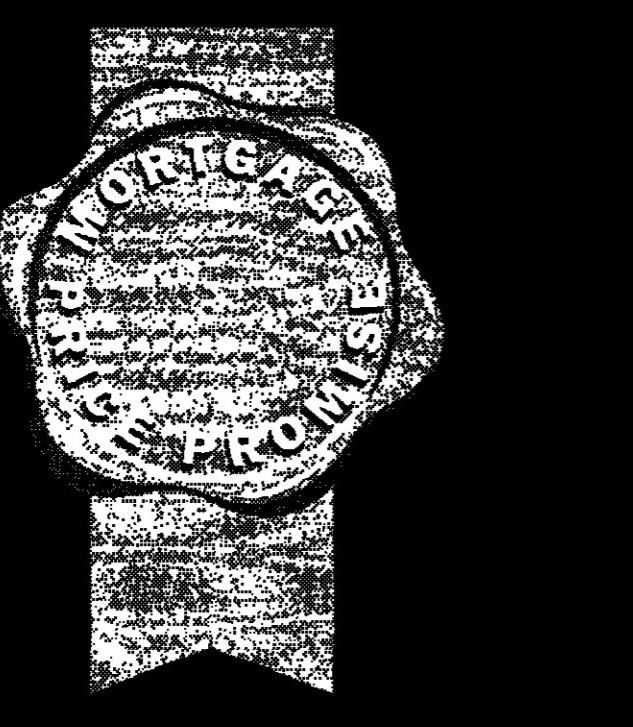
The Office for National Statistics, which incorporates the General Register Office, said: "We have no comment because we have not had any official representation from the bishops."

Cardinal Hume also stood by his view that the waiting time before a divorce proposed in the Bill be extended from 12 months, but did not specify how long it should be.

At Your Service
Weekend, page 15

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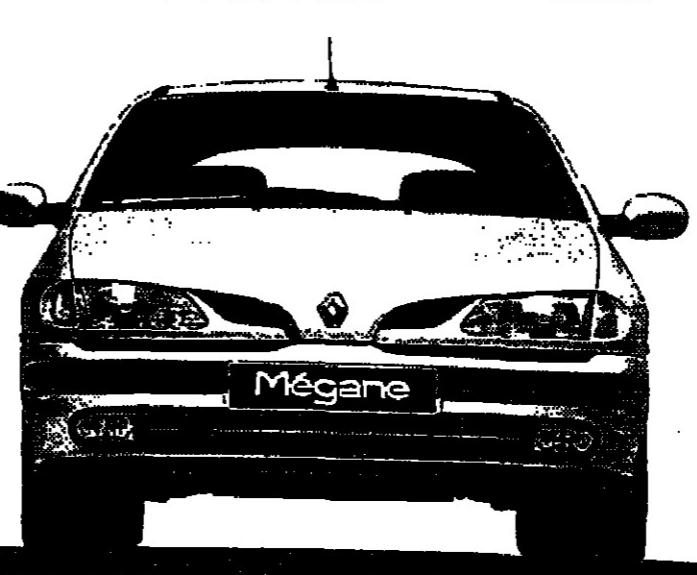
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JULY 10 1996

Race against the clock for Atlanta in Olympics dash

FROM IAN BRODIE IN ATLANTA

THESE are nail-biting times in Atlanta as it counts down to opening ceremonies for the Olympic Games in three months. The city is hoping to win a world-class reputation as the Big Peach, but snags and discord still litter the track.

Heavy winter rains delayed construction of the stadium. Crews are racing to catch up, but will have their work cut out. The city centre is still a rash of hardhat sites that throb to the clatter of pneumatic drills and bulldozers. Officials have delayed the debut of a festive Olympic Park from next month to June while workers shift into high gear seven days a week. The Games start on July 19.

Anxieties about terrorism have prompted the FBI and 22 other law-enforcement agencies to hold secret exercises this week based on alarming scenarios. They included simulations of an airline hijacking.

has listings for 6,500 houses and flats, many costing \$1,000 (£600) a day, but only five have been taken. She said prices must start falling quickly if the idea is ever to catch on.

The quest for Olympics tickets and hotel rooms remains a daunting challenge. British fans who decide to attend at this late stage will be better off buying tour packages before they leave rather than taking their chances in Atlanta, where promises of extra tickets and accommodation are falling short.

Atlanta will undergo a pre-

Olympics test in crowd control this weekend when 200,000 black college students arrive for an annual spring rite known as Froshnik, a partying and car-cruising bash that causes untold traffic jams.

Atlanta residents who had hoped to amass sky-high profits from renting their well-to-do homes to Olympic spectators are still waiting. One rental agent, Anne Treadwell,

Despite the problems, Atlanta's organisers are con-

fident that all work will be finished on time. "Damn right, we'll be ready," said Bob Brennan, the Games spokes-

man, warily fielding questions about Atlanta's ability to finish on time. "Look at what we've already done."

The Olympic stadium with seating for 83,000 will be dedicated a month from now, even as the organising com-

munity and owner of "Reggie's British Pub", is confident

the city will indeed be peachy.

He said: "They'll have every-

thing in place by opening day,

but it will probably cost them

a fortune in overtime."



One of two workers hurt when a tower collapsed at the Olympic stadium last year is lowered to safety. A third was killed

**Rifkind
plea for
colony's
council**

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN will make a last-ditch effort today to persuade China to allow Hong Kong's final elected Legislative Council to continue its work after Peking's takeover next year.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, will meet Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, in The Hague today to review the intensifying pace of discussions before the transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty. He is expected to press Mr Qian to lift China's threat to abolish the council. Mr Rifkind will point to the harm such a move would cause. Discussions will also centre on the role of the Hong Kong Civil Service, after warnings by Peking that civil servants will be expected to show loyalty.

Lu Ping, the head of China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, slipped out of the colony by car to avoid demonstrators yesterday, after talks with officials.

Leading article, page 21

Gun owners gather in Dallas to target Clinton campaign

FROM TOM RHODES IN DALLAS

THE city where John Kennedy was assassinated has never disguised its fondness for powerful guns or strong women. Yesterday the two forces were combined in a political broadside against President Clinton.

More than 25,000 gun enthusiasts arrived in Dallas for the annual convention of the 125-year-old National Rifle Association, one of the most powerful political lobby groups in America, which could affect the presidential election.

At its helm are two women who have firmly established that the NRA is no longer a male bastion: Marion Hammer, a 57-year-old chain-smoking grandmother who became its first female chairman earlier this year, and Tanya Metaksa, her pistol-packing colleague.

The two present a strident defence of the Second Amendment right to bear arms and have promised their organisation will help to defeat Mr Clinton in November.

But membership tumbled last year by 400,000 and, according to figures to be released this weekend, NRA cash and investments have declined by more than half to \$42.8 million (£27.4 million).

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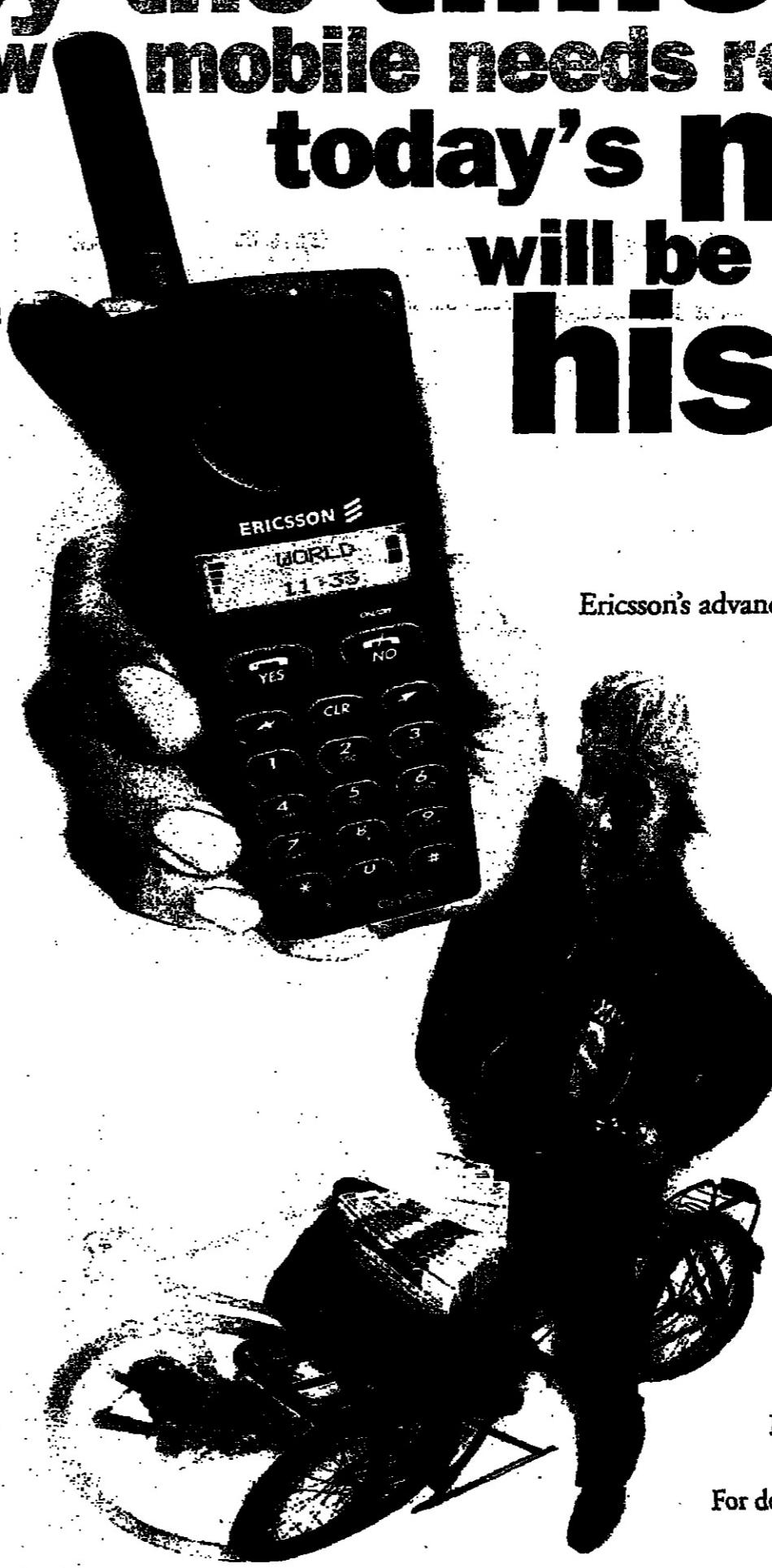
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Israel forced on to political defensive by massacre of Lebanon refugees

By LAWRENCE FREEDMAN

COMMENTARY

SINCE Thursday's catastrophic strikes against Lebanese civilians and their United Nations protectors, Israel has been on the political defensive. Up to that point, its strategy was to pound away until a refugee-induced build-up of economic pressure led Beirut and Damascus to accept the need to restrain Hezbollah.

This strategy required time, and one criterion was to prevent a build-up of external political pressure to bring matters to a swift conclu-

sion. Arab moderates were required to confine their displeasure to ritual condemnations. Western governments, fearful of an even harder-line Likud government, were expected to give Israel the benefit of the doubt.

Large-scale civilian casualties would inevitably be counterproductive, and so it has proved. With some grim exceptions, the operations up to Thursday had not produced the number of fatalities

that the sheer amount of munitions involved might have led one to expect. But when whole families get blown to pieces, the costs seem to be disproportionate.

The West does not want to abandon Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, but it also does not want to accept the costs of rationalising Israeli actions.

Hence the demands for an immediate ceasefire.

A unilateral ceasefire by Israel while Hezbollah attacks continued would be a disastrous outcome for Mr Peres. So long as the

Katyushas keep on coming, he dare not stop Operation Grapes of Wrath. So yesterday, little seemed to have changed: rockets still fell on northern Israel; volleys of artillery shells replied — only now, it is much harder for Israel to be patient and sustain the operation at its previous level of ferocity.

Unless Israel is prepared to escalate its action by instituting large-scale ground operations in southern Lebanon, it has to seek a negotiated solution. Even this option would depend on a failed

diplomatic effort which would confirm an Israeli interest and Hezbollah disinterest in peace.

Hezbollah may well feel under no pressure to agree to a ceasefire except on favourable terms. So far, things have been going its way politically, and to some extent militarily, in that just being able to continue firing its rockets is a victory of sorts. Most Arab governments, however, including Syria, recognise that confrontations such as this can escalate out of control: they will not want Hezbollah to pass up an opportunity

to secure a ceasefire. Hence the optimism that a deal can be reached. One possibility would be a return to the 1993 understanding: Israeli troops on Lebanese soil would be considered fair game for ambush, but Hezbollah would eschew rocket attacks. Few would consider that much progress has been made if this was the best that could be achieved.

A more satisfactory settlement would be for Israel to find a way to evacuate its "security zone" in southern Lebanon. It has never

had any designs on Lebanese territory and this zone has not been a great success.

Nonetheless Israel, like many insecure states, still feels its borders are safest when it controls both sides. It has demanded, in return for leaving the zone, a combination of Hezbollah promises, Syrian guarantees, international supervision and nine months of peace. Of these, the most flexibility probably rests with the timing. The stronger the guarantees, the earlier it might be able to leave Lebanon alone.

UN soldiers grieve over 'slaughterhouse' tactics

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN QANA

REFUGEES

WHITE United Nations bulldozers tore at the twisted iron skeletons of two flimsy prefabricated huts where most of the 101 Lebanese refugees were killed at Qana, a desolate village five miles south of Tyre, itself a virtual ghost city.

"I want to go home," said Seni Leba, 35, a Fijian lance corporal, sitting crumpled in a shrapnel-pocked white Mercedes. "I can never again pick up pieces of little babies. He was unable to continue.

Major Josephine Savua, 44, took over: "Our camp was a slaughterhouse. We were slipping on blood and flesh. People were cut in half. Bodies were thrown everywhere. This was cold-blooded murder. Why?"

As we spoke, an Israeli Apache helicopter gunship hung like a dragonfly in the sky to the west. Surrounding hills and valleys rumbled to the sound of incoming Israeli artillery shells.

The UN said 300 were fired by noon yesterday. There had already been eight Israeli air raids on southern Lebanon. Overnight, Hezbollah had fired 50 Katyusha rockets into northern Israel. Another massacre did not seem impossible. "We tried to communicate with the Unifil command when the Israelis started shelling yesterday, but we got cut off," said Major Savua. He added that 28 shells had rained down on the area over a 20-minute period, three hitting the camp, home to 161

eating in a building. Then there were flames. A [UN] soldier was trying to hold up the roof so we could be pulled out. He was bleeding. All his face was red with blood."

Eamonn Smyth, 44, from Dublin, a commander at the UN's Tyre headquarters, was in a convoy of relief vehicles trying to deliver aid to civilians marooned in villages under Israeli fire when radio calls for assistance came from Qana. "When we got there, there were row upon row of bodies," he said. "The charred bodies of women and children everywhere. I've never seen anything so horrific in 22 years of soldiering."

The UN spokesman in Tyre,

Mikael Lindvall, said Qana "was a disaster waiting to happen". As he spoke, many of the 200 refugees in the UN's Tyre base dived for cover as the earth shook from the explosive sonic boom of an Israeli warplane — reminding people that a noon deadline to flee Israel's free-fire zone had expired. Every few minutes for the next four hours Israeli gunboats pumped two or three shells into the coast.

Sweating motorists turned into radios heard optimistic talk about a possible ceasefire. But optimism was not the word to describe the mood in southern Lebanon yesterday.

Letters, page 21



A young survivor of the Israeli raid on the UN refugee camp in Qana recovering in a Tyre hospital yesterday.

Iran urges retaliation

Tehran: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader of Iran, yesterday urged Hezbollah guerrillas to strike back at Israel for the massacre of civilians in southern Lebanon.

In a message to Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the Tehran-backed Hezbollah, Ayatollah Khamenei said that he was "deeply saddened" by the Israeli shelling of the UN refugee compound. "Dignity requires that you withstand Zionist attacks and strike a

blow to make them remorseful of their acts. The slightest sign of yielding would make [Israel] bolder and more beastly."

He added: "This great human catastrophe shows how bold the Zionists have become and how they disregard international norms."

Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, condemned the Israeli shelling of the UN compound in Qana as "a ruthless and savage act". (AFP)

URGENT APPEAL CRISIS IN LEBANON

Within minutes of Thursday's shelling of the UN base near Tyre in Southern Lebanon, Red Cross staff were helping to evacuate and treat the wounded. We made emergency deliveries of dressings and IV fluids to overcrowded hospitals. And a Red Cross convoy brought food, medical supplies and more doctors and nurses to provide essential medical care in Tyre and Sidon.

This is just part of the Red Cross aid effort in Southern Lebanon. 60,000 people are trapped by the violence and 400,000 more are fleeing north. Red Cross workers are providing them with the blankets, food and medical aid they desperately need.

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: PHILLIP THORPE

An able protector on the investment front line

Robert Miller
talks to the
Kiwi charged
with ensuring
that investors
can sleep easy

Phillip Thorpe is the custodian of £1,000 billion. He is not a tycoon and the money is not his. Nevertheless, if any of it goes missing he will be held accountable, and the chances of him keeping his job as a senior City watchdog will be slim indeed. If he gets it right, however, we all get to sleep easier.

The 41-year-old New Zealander is chief executive of a body known by the cumbersome title of the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation — more simply identified by its acronym of Imro. Thorpe's beat as a frontline regulator is to ensure that those charged with looking after money invested on our behalf in pension funds or unit and investment trusts do so properly. Sadly, his brief does not stretch to how well the money managers perform.

Thorpe, who has practised as a solicitor and a barrister, is well aware of the pitfalls in his job. If there is one constant nightmare it is that of a late-night call to tell him a "black hole" has appeared in a pension fund. Thorpe knows all about that. He got his present job in July 1993 with the express instruction to save Imro from extinction after the Robert Maxwell affair.

Imro regulated Bishopgate Investment Management and London and Bishopsgate Investment Management, two of the companies that looked after the Maxwell pension funds and in which there was an unexplained shortfall of £440 million.

Imro was heavily criticised by MPs, pensioners, consumer groups and just about everybody else. Thorpe recalls: "I came in because there was a great deal of doubt about the future of Imro and there was a lot of work to be done." Since that low point, Imro has made up lost ground, so much so that Thorpe started this week by launching a radical blueprint for the way in which his charges are regulated in the future and, more importantly, how consumers need to be better informed.

On Monday, he started the ball rolling on what is likely to be a long-term project. It has certainly occupied most of this week with a series of meetings, presentations and phone calls to explain the result of Imro's research. And those results should give anyone who has



Wine and poses: Phillip Thorpe, chief executive of Imro, who mixes his vital City watchdog role with a spot of viticulture as owner of a vineyard in the Loire region

invested their money serious food for thought.

Thorpe, whose first job on leaving New Zealand was a two-year stint in the tiny island republic of Nauru, in the South Pacific, as public prosecutor, film censor and registrar of births, deaths and marriages, says: "It is time to recognise and address the fact that the achievement of adequate investor protection by conventional financial regulation alone remains an elusive, and probably unattainable, goal. Investors must be better prepared for the financial decisions they must take."

Thorpe adds: "Financial regulation is actually a social policy. Whichever government is in power it is an inescapable fact that people are having to make more and more provision for themselves, rather than rely on the State. This applies to pensions and retirement as much as long-term care and critical illness policies." The bottom line for Thorpe and his fellow regulators is that people do not want to find themselves penniless and ripped-off.

Thorpe, who studied politics and law, was enticed to the UK in 1989 by Christopher Sharples, former head of the Securities and Futures Authority, a fellow watchdog with responsibility for brokers and futures dealers. Thorpe had moved to Hong Kong from Nauru in 1981 to work for the colony's Government. He moved rapidly up the promotion ladder and in October 1987 was appointed chief executive of the Hong Kong Futures Exchange to assist it

through the aftermath of the worldwide stock market crash. Thorpe says of his time in Hong Kong: "It was a very interesting period and I was introduced to some extremely unsavoury characters. But knowing someone is bent is different from proving it."

It is this theme of proof that is exercising Thorpe and his fellow regulators in the UK. "In disciplinary proceedings we have to provide a very high level of proof that is sometimes even more demanding than in a criminal case."

On Thursday, Thorpe was delighted when the SFA confirmed that it was considering making details of its disciplinary proceedings more transparent. The SFA decision came after an earlier public outcry over an investigation into the role played by senior executives at Barings before the crash. The SFA announced that Peter Baring, the former chairman, had agreed that he would never work in the City again, while his deputy, Andrew Tuckey, had agreed to play a restricted role. It subsequently transpired that a restricted role meant retiring at 52 on an annual pension of around £120,000 and that he could expect to receive a further sum of some £110,000 for consultancy work at ING Barings.

The public perception was that the two most senior men in charge of the 233-year-old merchant bank at the time of the £860 million crash, and who had, albeit unwittingly, benefited from handsome bonuses based on Nick Leeson's bogus trading, had got off scot-free. Wrong but nevertheless understandable. As Thorpe

says, to bring a full-blown disciplinary case and prove that "an act of misconduct" has been committed is becoming even more difficult in these increasingly litigious times.

Sharples says of Thorpe: "He has energy and undoubted talents, but he has a habit of sheerling off at a tangent and needs to be brought back on track." This habit was evident

last summer when Thorpe let it be widely known that he intended to be savagely critical of the role played by the Securities and Investments Board, the most senior City watchdog, when he gave evidence to the Commons Treasury Select Committee to back his previously submitted written evidence. Suitably briefed, the MPs waited for the flak to

fly. They waited in vain. Afterwards, Thorpe, who has five children from two marriages, said that he felt "constrained and unable to say all I wanted to". The allegation was that he had been gagged by Charles Nunneley, the Imro chairman on the instructions of Andrew Large, the SIB chairman. Both parties strongly denied the allegation.

the matter was quietly dropped. Thorpe had survived.

Thorpe's fellow regulators delivered equally damning verdicts on the SIB's role in City regulation but did so in a somewhat more restrained manner. But as Thorpe said this week: "The SIB has restructured and we the frontline regulators are being allowed the room to get on and do our job." Whether last summer's outburst has affected Thorpe's long-term prospects of achieving a higher position in the pecking order remains to be seen, but at least he tackled the issues head-on as he has done again this week, albeit in a milder way.

If he were to quit, Thorpe has another business to go into and even this week he was making sure that he attended to it when he had the time. Thorpe owns a vineyard in the Loire region of France where his two young children live with his wife Melinda or Mel, a former stockbroker. The 22-acre vineyard produces some 5,000 cases of bubbly and a still Chenin blanc. Customers now include top restaurants such as Le Manoir Aux Quat'Saisons, L'Ortolan, near Reading, and RSJ in London.

If Thorpe were to quit the regulatory scene investors would undoubtedly lose an able and charismatic protector who still has a lot to offer. He seems unfazed at the prospect and even less so that he might not sell all of his wine. As he says: "I can always drink it."

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HIDDEN ASSETS

Courtaulds' silver shines through the generations

Visitors to the Court and Galleries at Somerset House may be drawn by an impressive collection of elegant silverware displayed in the ante-room to the Great Room upstairs. The fine silver pieces are notable for their superb modelling, their simplicity and their restraint. Perhaps most notable of all is that they were made by three generations of the Courtauld family, between 1710 and 1778.

It is only recently that the silverware has been brought together in its entirety. The collection has been built up over the past 70 years and is now one of the most significant private collections in the country, consisting of high-quality pieces that show all the best standards of work associated with refugee Huguenot goldsmiths of the period.

Augustin Courtauld IV, a French merchant, arrived with his family in 1687 from Ille d'Oleron near La Rochelle. He apprenticed two of his sons to the master goldsmith Simon Pantin. The elder son, also Augustin, served under Pantin from 1701 until 1708, before establishing his own premises in St Martin-in-the-Fields. Augustin cornered the market in supplying the London aristocracy with silver vessels for the new drinks of the day — tea, coffee and chocolate. He also developed an important line in two-handled cups. One, dated 1714, bears an inscription recording the friendship between Robert Boyle (1627-1715), of the Royal Society, and Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury (1643-1715).



Louisa Courtauld's 1765 cup and cover

His business did well and his son, Samuel, born in 1720, also served in his father's workshop. Samuel Courtauld's mark appears on the more sumptuous domestic pieces in the collection, including a 1748 rococo tea kettle and stand and a 1751 soup tureen with applied foliage and rams' feet. Samuel moved his premises to Cornhill as the business expanded, but he died in 1765, aged 45. After 19 years in the craft, he had

achieved the same smithing status as his father.

His widow, Louisa, with her husband's former apprentice, George Cowles, produced some fine silver made in the neo-classical style. Examples include a restrained and finely decorated bread basket, dated 1771, and a further series of two-handled cups and covers. Louisa's son, Samuel II, joined her in the business until 1780 when it was sold, so ending the family tradition.

The collection has recently been crowned with the inclusion of a silver gilt cup and cover bearing the joint marks of Louisa and Samuel II. Her other son, George, was apprenticed to a silk throwster in Spitalfields and began the family connection with the silk industry from which Courtaulds and Courtaulds Textiles ultimately grew.

The collection makes a point about the quality of design and the high standards of craftsmanship of Courtaulds," says David Stevens, deputy company secretary of Courtaulds. "It is something we would certainly like to keep intact — it shows we have been around for three centuries now, and we would like to be around for a little bit longer yet."

JOANNA PITMAN

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Wm Morrison could be next target in store wars

CITY investors are pinning their hopes on a further contraction of the food retailing market.

Whispers circulating in the Square Mile yesterday claimed that J Sainsbury or Argyl, the Safeway supermarket chain, may be about to pounce on Wm Morrison Supermarket, one of the few remaining independent food retailers.

Shares of Morrison touched 177p at one stage, before ending the session 7p better at a new high of 171p. By the close of business almost four million shares had changed hands in a market which is so thin that traders will normally only quote a price for 25,000 shares at a time.

The latest burst of speculation follows revived talk that Ken Morrison, the chairman and managing director, wants to call it a day and may be looking for a buyer for his stake. The speculators see this as opening the door to a predator.

At the last count, Mr Morrison directly owned 91.4 million shares, or almost 13 per cent of the trader's issued share capital.

City speculators have been saying for some time that William Morrison would eventually go the same way as William Low, which was snapped up two years ago by Tesco.

Sainsbury is seen as the favourite candidate to make a bid in order to regain market share from Tesco. Sainsbury itself ended 31p lower at 361p, with Argyl 5p firmer at 334p and Tesco 1p dearer at 289p.

The rest of the equity market resumed its record-breaking run, fuelled by a number of factors that ranged from American buying and the absence of institutional sellers to the expiry of the April options. The latter forced hard-pressed market-makers to try to cover exposed positions.

With fund managers refusing to turn sellers, however, their task was made that much more difficult. Stock shortages still persist and this is expected to continue driving prices higher.

The FTSE 100 index ended the week on a high note, closing at its best of the day with a rise of 36.4 to an all-time high of 3,857.1. This stretches the rise on the week



A takeover setback saw Lloyds TSB share price slip

to 91 points, or 2.4 per cent. A total of 910 million shares were traded.

Once again there was a liberal sprinkling of takeover talk among leading shares, which helped to keep sentiment on the boil. Thorn EMi rose another 33p to £18.13 on persistent talk that a bid may be imminent. Time Warner of the US, or Viacom, are said to

it emerged that Westpac, the Australian bank, had stepped in with a NZ\$1.27 billion (£574-million) offer for Trust Bank of New Zealand. Trust Bank said its eight community trusts, accounting for 76 per cent of the shares, had decided to accept the offer, which tops terms previously negotiated by Lloyds TSB. Lloyds TSB was 1p lighter at 327.1p.

Premier Farnell, formerly Farnell Electronics, until its recent £1.8 billion acquisition of Premier Industries in the US, put in a late spur to finish 27p up on the day at 717p ahead of full-year figures on Monday.

The group has already forecast pre-tax profits up from £62 million to £75 million.

Queens Moat extended this year's run with a rise of 2p to 31p after announcing plans to dispose of a total of 25 hotels.

Of this number, 19 trade under the County name, with the remainder included as part of the Moat House chain.

The proceeds from the sale will be used to reduce debt.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** The London market took its lead from German bunds to end the week on a firm note.

Brokers described trading conditions as less volatile than of late, with investors looking cautiously ahead at next week's auction and retail sales numbers.

Demand was weighted towards the shorter end of the market-place, resulting in a steepening of the yield curve.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt climbed £1.32 to £106.1 as the number of contracts completed contracted to 41,000.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose £1.16 to £98. while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was seven ticks better at £102.32.

□ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street followed bonds and the dollar higher on the back of high-technology shares. Microsoft's better than expected third-quarter profits helped the Dow Jones Industrial average 3.97 points higher at 5,555.71.

Bid speculation in Cable & Wireless boiled over as the price retreated 41p to 541.4p. This follows reports that the Chinese Government may drag its feet and take upwards of a year to agree the proposed merger between the company and BT, its biggest rival, which finished 1p up at 377.1p.

Lloyds TSB's attempt to secure a hat-trick of acquisitions suffered a setback when

the rerating continues at Williams Holdings, the fast growing industrial conglomerate, where the shares breached their 12-month high with a rise of 5p to 35p.

BET, the subject of an unwanted £2.1 billion from Rentokil, slipped 3p to 202.2p as its hopes of retaining its independence took a turn for the better. M&G Investment Management, with a 7.5 per cent stake, has pledged its

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□ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street followed bonds and the dollar higher on the back of high-technology shares. Microsoft's better than expected third-quarter profits helped the Dow Jones Industrial average 3.97 points higher at 5,555.71.

Bid speculation in Cable & Wireless boiled over as the price retreated 41p to 541.4p.

This follows reports that the Chinese Government may drag its feet and take upwards of a year to agree the proposed merger between the company and BT, its biggest rival, which finished 1p up at 377.1p.

Lloyds TSB's attempt to secure a hat-trick of acquisitions suffered a setback when

the rerating continues at Williams Holdings, the fast growing industrial conglomerate, where the shares breached their 12-month high with a rise of 5p to 35p.

BET, the subject of an unwanted £2.1 billion from Rentokil, slipped 3p to 202.2p as its hopes of retaining its independence took a turn for the better. M&G Investment Management, with a 7.5 per cent stake, has pledged its

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MORE TRUST IN HANSON



POOR RETURNS 33

In search of
a safe house
for savers

Are you on the right track?

Marianne Curphey considers
the £1.8bn sale of Railtrack

It is going to be the sale of the century or a privatisation dogged by risk and regulatory interference? Barriers to the great Railtrack sell-off look set to be oversubscribed when applications close next month. Smaller investors are being tempted by estimates of a total yield of between 14 and 20 per cent, while the City has watched Railtrack's price tag drop from £2 billion to around £1.8 billion because of political uncertainty and now believes the share offer will be fairly priced.

Institutional investors running index-tracking funds will have to hold Railtrack shares in their portfolio, which will push up demand for stock when it is first floated.

Publicly, institutions are talking down the deal, hoping to drive the offer price down even further before flotation. Railtrack will go on a series of roadshows next week in an attempt to convince the City that it has the assets and the management skills necessary to pull off the deal.

Few in the Square Mile are willing to make predictions about the stock's performance

in the long term, but most agree that it looks a good short-term bet.

Audrey Lowrie, a director on HSBC's UK equities desk, said: "The dividend yield is very attractive for small investors, particularly in the first year."

She believes that there could also be an opportunity for staging — selling shares on the first day of trading to take advantage of pent-up demand.

Stags made thousands of pounds in 24 hours when the first tranche of British Telecom shares were floated in 1985. When Orange was floated last month, it joined the FTSE 100 index very quickly and was in demand from institutions for their index-tracking funds. Stags made up to 35p per share in the first day.

Undeterred by the political row, more than 900,000 people have registered with the 10,000 Share Shops in Britain for the Railtrack issue.

In an attempt to guard against the flotation becoming a public relations disaster, the Government is giving small investors a better deal than the large institutions, and at least a third of all shares will go to individuals.

Instead, Labour is far more likely to tighten the powers of the regulator and introduce restrictive rules on contracts and charges which could stunt Railtrack's earnings capacity. Labour gives warning in a three-page policy statement in the Railtrack prospectus that it is concerned at the high-track access charges that Railtrack is allowed to levy in order to guarantee a high return to shareholders. Labour has pledged to review these charges if it is returned to government at the general election.

HOW TO DEAL

The minimum investment in the US public offer — for individuals only — will be 200 shares. With the first instalment costing 190p a share, the minimum payment will be £380. Under a separate offer, institutional investors will pay more per share. The exact price will not be announced until May 1.

The second instalment is payable on June 3, 1997, and will be the same for both the UK public offer and the international offer. Investors will have a better idea of the cost when the full prospectus is published on May 1.

Individuals can also apply for the retail tender, which is on the same terms as the international offer, does not qualify for discounts, has a minimum investment of £3,000 for the first instalment and is for people who want to buy large share allocations.

Share Shops will not charge a fee for investors applying for Railtrack shares, because they are paid a fee by the Government. However, there are varying charges when you come to sell your stock.

The Share Centre (0800 800008) is currently offering a "family" deal, whereby applications for shares from the same address are bundled together and can be sold for a single fee. The selling commission is 1 per cent, with a minimum charge of £7.50. Investors can also put their shares into a PEP. Barclays also offers this deal by post for a fee of 1 per cent, with a £7.50 minimum. City Deal (0708 742288) will charge a flat fee of £5 for dealing in Railtrack shares up to a value of £3,000, and £15 thereafter. This offer also applies to buying and selling shares in Eurotunnel and Stagecoach.

Stockbrokers and financial advisers are divided over the merits of the offer. Philip Epsley, at Albert E Sharp, the stockbroker, says there are unanswered questions over the fate of the company's debt and how much the Government intends to subsidise Railtrack with public funds.

The projections are very difficult at this stage as to the profit the company is going to make, but there is massive scope for cost-cutting," he said.

Mark Bolland, an independent financial adviser with Chamberlain de Broe, said: "The 14 per cent yield, if it materialises, is very good. Few investments, except perhaps foreign government bonds, come close to bettering that. Railtrack is a huge landowner and its property interests should provide a good yield. However, you are still buying into open-ended liability. Lab-

WEEKEND MONEY

MATHS CLASS 32

Do your sums
on school
fees add up?



Just when
we had it
figured ...

Investors were yet again treated to a display of the unpredictability of markets this week when the London stock market refused to bateen by potentially devastating news and instead concentrated on the good (Karen Zagor writes).

The week started on a strong note as London responded to a record close on Wall Street. Investors looking to reinvest their personal equity plans put money into London, which helped to lift the FTSE 100 to 3,790.5, a gain of 23.7 points.

Tuesday saw the FTSE 100 close at a record 3,825.5, helped by an enthusiastic response to news that National Power, Britain's biggest power generator, had been put into play. Its shares climbed 31p to 521p, and the partly paid shares gained 30p to 35p in frenzied trading amid rumours that the company was the target of a bid from Southern, an American utility. Wednesday was gloomy, with depressing economic news taking the wind out of the market's sails. Unemployment had fallen more sharply than expected, while average earnings had risen, putting an end to speculation that interest rates might fall further. That was compounded when it emerged that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had considered raising rates at their last monthly economic meeting. Yet the FTSE 100 responded by losing just 19.7 points on the day, barely a blip on the scale of stock market losses. One bright spot was National Power, which jumped a further 56p to 578p on confirmation of the takeover bid by Southern.

On Thursday, the FTSE 100 retraced most of its previous day's losses, reflecting a surprise half-point cut in German interest rates and ignoring a substantial drop on Wall Street. By Friday afternoon, the FTSE 100 ended the week having set another record (see page 28).

Weekend Money
is edited by
Anne Ashworth



There is always a risk in tracking any privatised company, and Railtrack has more than its fair share of politically driven uncertainties

THE RISKS

THE REWARDS

How likely is it that if Labour wins the next election, it will try to renationalise the organisation? Analysts believe that because the Government is selling off all of its stake in the organisation — instead of retaining 49 per cent of shares as it did in previous sell-offs such as electricity — Tony Blair will be unwilling and unlikely to attempt to buy back the whole of Railtrack. Such a measure would be a difficult, time-consuming and costly exercise which would alienate small shareholders and large institutional investors in the City.

Railtrack proposes that this will be equivalent to about £69 million. For the second instalment, those who subscribe through Share Shops for the public offer will be offered the choice of a discount worth up to £10 or a bonus of one free share for every 15 bought. These incentives could be worth a further 4 to 6 per cent, making a potential total return of around 20 per cent, though this is by no means guaranteed.

THE ADVICE

Stockbrokers and financial advisers are divided over the merits of the offer. Philip Epsley, at Albert E Sharp, the stockbroker, says there are unanswered questions over the fate of the company's debt and how much the Government intends to subsidise Railtrack with public funds.

He said: "In the long term, Railtrack could expand its retail development at stations and create large shopping centres at railway stations, as BAA did with airports.

"Political uncertainty is holding back the price but even a 7 per cent yield is better than building society deposit rates currently available. However, if you have never invested in equities before, this share issue is not necessarily the right one for you. It is more suitable for someone who already has a large, well-balanced portfolio."

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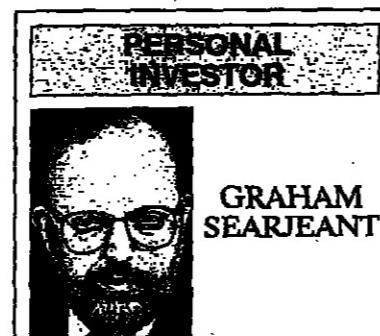
Having a say at the AGM

Back in 1962, the Jenkins committee on company law recommended, among much else, that a shareholder's appointed proxy should be able to speak at a company meeting, as well as cast the vote. A third of a century later, the Department of Trade and Industry is still agonising over this groundbreaking innovation. *Shareholder Communications at the Annual General Meeting*, its new consultation paper, still implies this might be a step too far.

Can this be the same department that is gaily blowing up the gas industry, in the hope that the pieces might fall back in a theoretically better pattern? The difference is that details of company law are usually left to officials who perennially give great weight to any possible risk of reform. Anything goes when change has a political or bureaucratic priority. Whitehall caution has much to command it, but there are limits.

Company meetings have decayed so far from their formal function of making directors accountable to shareholders that most companies think them an expensive waste of time. Fund managers boycott them. Most private investors do not bother because they know their voice rarely counts. Paul Myers' DTI-sponsored City/Industry working group was tempted to suggest abolishing compulsory AGMs. It stepped back, in favour of reform, perhaps only because of the inevitable political charge that small shareholders would be gagged.

The proxy issue has arisen anew because even funds now often hold shares via nominee custodians. They have suggested an alternative change to



GRAHAM
SEARJEANT

allow them to exercise their rights. This problem should be dealt with by a specific new rule, but all minor measures to help investors overcome nominee problems should be tried. Unlike the gas revolution, they can always be reversed.

The paper's main theme, reflecting a select committee report that spawned it, is to make it easier for shareholders to put down resolutions at company meetings and to ask questions that will get answers. There are cost issues here. If companies have to circulate resolutions at common expense, as they should, it costs a lot if they are too late to go out with the annual report. But that rules out resolutions stemming from the report. Perhaps these could be handled in advance notice questions.

Cromises have to be made. Directors and officials worry more that shareholders will be exploited by the special interest groups that disrupt annual meetings of many multinationals and high-profile companies.

This conflict cannot be ducked. Any democratic improvements for shareholders are bound to be exploited by troublemakers who have little interest in returns to investors. By the same immutable law, any restrictions imposed to curb the vexatious will be exploited by arrogant company boards to stifle the real voice of shareholders.

Risks are worth taking here too. The textbook vision of shareholder democracy has long vanished. The vast majority of shares are controlled by faceless corporate funds. Active private shareholders will use nominee accounts. Most of them will give up non-financial rights, faced with a choice between exercising them or saving money, unless companies offer tangible benefits.

If company boards are to be more accountable, it will be via some unalarming form of representative democracy, in which individuals use pressure groups to influence the votes of institutional shareholders. Investors will need to make sure these pressure groups reflect their views, not just the latest agitprop political correctness.

By this means, however, we might again allow boards to reflect the morals of their shareholders, not just the amorality of the economic man. At first, though, investor power would doubtless focus on the mean-spirited issue of directors' pay. Yet it might not be a bad idea if dozens of companies were confronted with identical resolutions asking that top pay be limited to, say, 25 times the lowest on the payroll — and fund managers had to explain if they opposed this humble request.

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Karen Zagor on making the most of money in matrimony



If you get tongue-tied over your financial affairs, there's no need to be nervous. Help is at hand from independent advisers who urge newlyweds to list their pre-nuptial money arrangements

With all my worldly goods

PENSIONS

FIONA PRICE says this is one of the few areas where being married has financial advantage. If your spouse is in a company pension scheme, you will almost certainly be entitled to a widow or widower's pension if your partner dies.

This privilege is not always extended to unmarried partners. James Higgins suggests considering writing death benefits of pensions in trust, or at least nominating your spouse as a beneficiary so that any death benefits are paid quickly. If there is no trust or nomination of death benefit, there may be a delay in the survivor receiving benefits while the estate is in probate.

Only relevant earnings can be used to fund a pension. There are tax benefits for pension contributions, so if a couple can afford to fund only one pension, it usually makes sense to fund one for the higher rate taxpayer.

PROPERTY

If both partners already own separate properties, they should each be able to continue to claim Mortgage Interest Relief At Source (Miras), provided one of the properties is sold within 12 months of vacating. If one of the properties is let, you will be able to claim the mortgage interest as an expense.

You cannot keep two properties as your main residence indefinitely. Unless you sell one of the properties within three years, you will have to pay Capital Gains Tax on the sale. A main residence is exempt from this liability.

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, boldly proclaimed in the last Budget: "It is a myth that the tax system penalises marriage and that single people are better off than married couples. Any young couple contemplating living together and starting a family will pay less tax by getting married."

Advisers at Fiona Price & Partners would beg to differ. Eileen Dougherty, a tax manager, says: "The advantages of marriage nowadays in tax terms are geared towards relatively wealthy people. They are not much use to ordinary working people on average salaries with an average mortgage and a family to support."

There was a time when couples who

got married in the waning days of the tax year were able to collect two full years' worth of the married couple's allowance. The recent surge in summer and autumn weddings may be a result of less generous tax laws. There are no longer any tax advantages to getting married in the spring, while the married couple's allowance has been whittled back to almost nothing.

JAMES HIGGINS of Chamberlain De Brox the independent financial adviser, urges couples to concentrate on the "until death (or divorce) do us part" element of the union. "Financial planning needs to be done on a regular basis so that the couple know exactly where they are in terms of assets and debts. Many marriages end in divorce simply

because the couple's finances have got out of hand and the couple find themselves heavily in debt. At the same time, flexibility needs to be maintained because anything that is in a sole name can result in difficulty in access for the surviving partner if one dies."

Fiona Price & Partners suggests that newlyweds start out by listing their existing financial arrangements, as pensions, savings, investments, insurance policies and any debts. From there, you can decide what your financial priorities are and how to go forward. And remember to tell parents and grandparents that they can give you up to £5,000 and £2,500, respectively free of tax.

JOINT ACCOUNTS

JOINT BANK ACCOUNTS are a mixed blessing for married couples. Their prime advantage is that they make day-to-day bill paying infinitely easier. But there are certain dangers. Couples are jointly liable for debts and overdrafts, which can be an issue if you are married to a profligate spender. Also, if one partner is self-employed or has a blighted credit history, the couple may find it difficult to get a mortgage. A solution is to have a joint account for bills, and to maintain separate accounts to benefit from one partner's more solid credit

record. The main problem with single accounts is that spouses cannot get information about the accounts and, in the event of death, funds in your spouse's account will be frozen until probate is finished.

INVESTMENTS

SINCE THE ADVENT OF INDEPENDENT TAXATION, couples have been able to take advantage of their separate status. Tax on savings and investment income is usually paid at the highest rate, so a higher-rate taxpayer will pay 40 per cent. Fiona Price estimates that a 40 per cent taxpayer can save £7,570 a year on transferred assets of £27,825.

All dividends and interest from gifts and deposits should be paid to the partner with the lowest marginal tax rate. If one spouse is a non-taxpayer, savings income can be paid gross after filling out a R85 form from a bank or building society. With capital gains tax, transfers can be made between spouses at any time without tax liability.

NO DEBT, NO CHILDREN AND NO MORTGAGE may not need insurance. Younger couples might consider joint lives first death cover. It is also worth exploring insurance on a guaranteed insurability basis, which allows you to get cover if you suffer a heart attack or some other event that might make you uninsurable. To choose a policy, get quotes for single life, joint life first death and family income benefit, which is useful for families with young children. If the cost difference is not substantial between two single life and one joint life policy, it is worth considering the single policies which will pay on the death of each partner, providing more cover.

WILLS

AGAIN BEING MARRIED IS AN ADVANTAGE. Spouses do not have to pay inheritance tax when their partner dies, and everything that is held in joint names will pass directly to the survivor. You can also write a will stating that your spouse will inherit everything. Without a will, however, a spouse with no children will only be entitled to the personal chattels plus a cash sum of £125,000 and a half share of any residue.

Wills are also essential for people with families. They are the only way to determine where the assets will go. Wills allow you to appoint guardians for children. It is relatively inexpensive to have a will drawn up, and can save years of heartache later.

Wills do need to be reviewed regularly as wishes and circumstances will almost inevitably change.

The first vital financial steps if marriage starts to fail

Karen Zagor on how to take the unnecessary pain out of a divorce settlement

This week the Duke and Duchess of York joined about half of the married population by filing for divorce. Like thousands of other separating couples, the Yorks must begin the long process of untangling their joint finances and reaching an acceptable settlement. Financially, divorce is remarkably similar to marriage. In both instances, couples must look at their pensions, savings, investments, insurance policies and wills.

Married women have traditionally left themselves vulnerable by relying on their husband's pension. Women in England and Wales may want to wait until July 1 to file for divorce. From then, pension payments will have to be split on retirement and there is pressure on the Government to further amend the rules to split pension rights at the time of divorce. In Scotland, pensions are already included in divorce settlements.

Legal bills can mount quickly during a divorce. You will be charged for every letter and telephone call. One solution is to contact the Solicitors' Family Law Association which will put you in touch with a lawyer whose aim is to diffuse anger and to keep the legal bills in check.

Next year's new laws should end the quickie divorce by ensuring couples are only granted a divorce after a year. It is hoped that during this waiting period the battling spouses will have a chance to cool down, untangle their finances and to avoid expensive courtroom battles over children and possessions, perhaps with the help of mediation. "It is a very good idea to have counselling in tandem," says Ms Hughes.

"This encourages people to come to sensible decisions along the way. Some people are forced through circumstances into proceedings before they are emotionally ready. Where possible, you should wait to file for divorce until you are ready and can make more rational decisions which cost you less money."

Divorce is also an important time to consider your will. Your circumstances and desires will almost certainly have changed, and you may want to make provision for your ex, if you part on amicable terms. National Family Mediation: 0171 383 5993; the Family Mediation Association: 01273 747750; Solicitors' Family Law Association: 01689 850227.



The Duchess' settlement

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Parents must make sure school fee sums add up



Not everyone has to pay school fees but the Revenue's decision to tax educational trusts will bring hardship to those who do.

According to school fees specialists, it is never too early to start saving or planning for education. Personal equity plans (Peps), tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas), unit trust savings plans, investment trusts, in particular, zero dividend preference shares, can all be used, as well as educational trust to build up a fund for private education.

Educational trusts have become far less attractive after the move by the Charity Commission to remove their charitable status from the beginning of next month. The Revenue has ruled that this means trusts can no longer distribute their income tax-free.

For some parents this will mean finding around 8 per cent more for their children's education. Alternative funding depends on whether lump sums are used, or whether savings are made out of regular income. Financial advisers point out that in reality many people will be unable to meet all their school fees planning needs from savings and investments alone.

Fiona Price of Fiona Price & Partners, said: "It is unlikely that savings will be able to pay for all school fees. When it comes to the time, usually extra funding from capital or income is needed."

Personal equity plans. Peps allow up to £9,000 to be invested — £6,000 in an ordinary Pep and £3,000 in a

single company plan. Any capital gains are tax free, as is any income. Peps are recommended for those who want to save regularly. Because they are vulnerable to stock market movements, Peps are only suitable for those who have at least five years to save.

Jonathan Gumpel, financial planning director at Brooks Macdonald Gayer, said: "Peps are really long term. Two Pep funds, one for the husband and one for the wife can be used. Taking a long term view means that you do not have to be so worried about volatility."

Tessas. These plans can also provide a way of saving for school fees. Interest on the accounts is paid free of tax, and if savers opt for a fixed rate account, it is possible to predict exactly what the maturity value will be in five years' time. For example, £9,000 invested today in Bank of Ireland's 7.25 per cent fixed rate Tessa will pay out £12,390 in five years' time.

Unit trust savings plans. It is possible to save as little as £50 a month in a unit trust savings plan. Financial advisers recommend choosing trusts which have high growth potential.

Zero dividend preference shares. Many split-capital investment trusts offer the choice of investment in zero dividend preference shares. These shares will mature at a certain

price at a set date. It is possible to invest in zeros which will mature on the dates when the school fees are needed. Mr Gumpel said: "The advantage of zero dividend shares is that they escape income tax." He recommends the shares of trusts from Ivory & Sime. Zeros are suitable for those with lump sums.

Educational trusts. These are trusts which, until the recent ruling, were deemed to be charities. They did not have to pay income tax on distributions. However, from April 1997, income will become taxable.

Educational trusts are offered by the School Fees Insurance Agency, Equitable Life and Sun Life. Financial advisers say that educational trusts are a move back to when there were fewer tax-efficient investments available.

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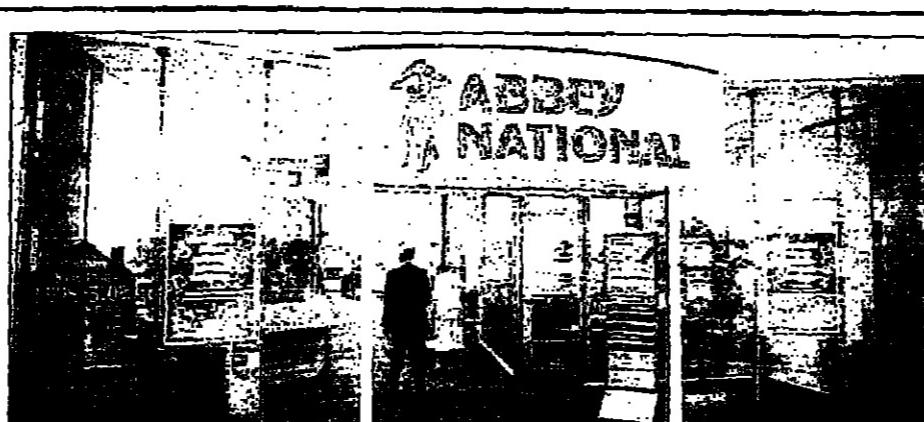
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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

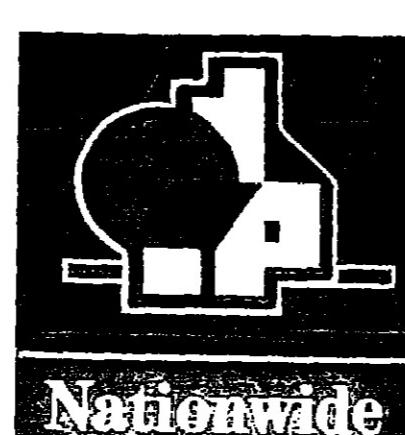


Is there a safe house for savers?

Sarah Jones
considers the
harsh climate
in which
savings rates
have wilted

Building societies are under the illusion that interest rates are like onions: they can peel away layer after layer. But it is investors who are left weeping as savings rates reach rock bottom, wiping out any benefit from the reduction in savings tax. With the latest parings, savers' rates have reached a 50-year low. A middle-band instant-access account currently pays 2.36 per cent net. That, according to Abbey National data, represents the lowest rates since the 1940s. Rates stood at 2.5 per cent net in 1941-45 and at 2.25 net in 1946-52. Mortgage rates are currently at a 30-year low.

This week the Woolwich announced an immediate cut on the interest rates paid on its Prime Gold, Tessa and current accounts. The changes vary from tier to tier but, across the board, the average cut is 0.2 per cent. The hardest hit are those with balances of more than £50,000. The Solid Gold gross monthly rate drops to 4.75 from 4.98 per cent. Even the Children's Account has not been spared, with a drop from 3.40 to 3.10 per cent. Accounts that are no longer



available to new investors, such as the Woolwich Investment Bond and the Premium Investment, Prime and Capital accounts, have also been cut.

A spokeswoman at the Woolwich said: "This follows from the last month's reduction in base rate. We are simply behind the pack on this particular change."

The move comes hot on the heels of the Halifax's decision to cut the rates on all its main savings accounts. The reduction means that the lowest gross rate for its instant Liquid Gold account, for balances up to £500, slumps below 1 per cent to 0.75 per cent. For balances of more than £50,000, the Solid Gold gross monthly rate drops to 4.75 from 4.98 per cent. Even the Children's Account has not been spared, with a drop from 3.40 to 3.10 per cent.

This month, the amount of tax automatically deducted from building society and bank accounts has fallen to 20 per cent for lower and basic-rate taxpayers. For building societies, that seemed the perfect time to cut savers' rates.

A spokeswoman for the Halifax said: "Our latest change coincides with the new tax rates to make it easier for customers, since it avoids confusion. It also saves money since we don't have to publish two lots of rates."

The latest round of cuts has severely dented, and in some cases wiped out, any benefit from the tax reduction. Take a Halifax Liquid Gold account with a balance of £5,000. At last month's higher interest and tax rates, net annual

interest was £120; with the new lower interest and tax rates this month, it is £116. The seven million Liquid Gold account holders are even worse off if you take the interest rates at last November's Budget, when the new savings tax rate was announced. Then the net annual interest on the same account was £104.

Mark Bolland, of Chamberlain de Brue, the independent financial adviser, said: "Investors who rely on interest rates for their income are getting well and truly stuffed, though the societies would argue that they had to drop the interest rates anyway — so at least customers are not as badly off.

All savers can do is look around for the best rates. But even the better-paying postal accounts are taking a knock. This week saw a 0.25 per cent reduction on the Chelsea Building Society's postal Classic Account, following a general reduction in the society's investment rates earlier in the month.

as they would have been under the higher tax rate.

"Savers are now in the worst possible world. They are sitting on low interest rates but it's too late to diversify. If you buy into equities and gilts now you will be going in at the top of the market and will suffer accordingly when interest rates rise again."

All savers can do is look around for the best rates. But even the better-paying postal accounts are taking a knock. This week saw a 0.25 per cent reduction on the Chelsea Building Society's postal Classic Account, following a general reduction in the society's investment rates earlier in the month.

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WEEKEND MONEY 33

Virgin Direct takes £15m Pep transfers from rivals

By Les Squires

Virgin Direct has poached £15m in PEP transfer business from rival building societies during the three months to

In March, the company took £5m from First Direct, and from

last month another £10m from

Tony Wood claimed that it fol-

lowed to rise to £15m as a result

of the new PEP rules.

Wood said: "We doubt their poor performance and high exit charges have anything to do with Virgin Direct."

Standard Life, which has

lost £100m in PEP transfers,

has responded by launching

its own PEP service.

First Direct, which has lost

£100m in PEP transfers,

has responded by launching

its own PEP service.

Standard Life, which has

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Savers who object to plans by their building society or life company to demutualise were warned this week that they need to act immediately if they are to have any chance of changing the board's policy.

Increasing numbers of mutual organisations have admitted that they are looking at the possibility of becoming public companies or accepting outside bids.

One organisation, which trades in second-hand life policies, has even drawn up a "hit-list" of candidates it believes are most likely to be taken over within the next year. They include Scottish Amicable, Scottish Life, MGM Assurance, NPL Guardian, and London & Manchester.

For policyholders and society members who are not convinced by offers of cash, shares or bonuses in return for surrendering their membership rights, timing is crucial, according to Marian Pell, a specialist in insurance law.

Mrs Pell, a senior partner with Herbert Smith, solicitors, says most policyholders do not move early enough in their attempt to overturn a board's decision. By the time they turn up to the extraordinary meeting to vote against the motion, it is usually too late.

"Historically, policyholders have failed to overturn the board's decision because they are not well enough organised," she said.

"Unlike shareholders in pic meetings, there is no block vote and it is an uphill battle for policyholders to assemble



Mrs Pell has advice for dissenters, but concedes chances of victory are slim

If you wish to keep it mutual, act early

enough votes to force through an amendment. In addition, if the board is forced to drop its plans with no suitable alternative, it leaves the organisation in a vulnerable position and its business may have been damaged by the episode." She says that policyholders who feel unhappy about the proposals could in theory go to a third party and suggest it bids for

their organisation as soon as the demutualisation is made public. In practice, she acknowledges it is very difficult for individual policyholders to involve themselves in such negotiations.

Over the past two years plans by building societies and life companies to demutualise have left behind them a trail of disgruntled policyholders.

ments, while Girobank savers will be excluded from the windfall to be paid out to Alliance & Leicester members when the society converts to a bank. Clerical Medical, the life insurer, had planned to exclude 30,000 savers whose life policies were due to mature before the end of the year, but had a change of heart after *The Times* drew attention to the unfairness of the decision.

Ultimately, Mrs Pell says, unhappy savers could take their case to the High Court, where demutualisation schemes of life companies have to be sanctioned.

When Provident Mutual was taken over by General Accident, two dissenters complained to the judge. No such action has ever succeeded.

Mrs Pell says that although building societies and life companies are entitled to say they are committed to mutuality, they are also obliged to consider every serious offer that comes along. It is the duty of directors to act in the best interests of the organisation.

One Woolwich saver who is trying to take action early is David Adams, 51, an associate director of Amec, the construction company. He withdrew £750 from his account just before the qualifying date, leaving him with a balance of less than £100 and disqualifying him from any bonus to be paid out when the society converted to a bank. He believes his loyalty should be rewarded and is to hold a meeting in Oxford on May 11 for all disgruntled savers.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Undecided Top 20 decide to tighten up

A bid speculation focuses increasingly on the medium-sized building societies, more have raised their minimum investment levels to discourage new customers (Anne Ashworth writes). But it may not have the desired effect, as Birmingham Midshires found this week.

On Monday, it raised its minimum to £1,500 in its 17 city-centre branches, and to £500 elsewhere. But customers continued to crowd in.

The Chelsea followed suit, closing three share accounts. Two of these, Capital Account and Instant Option, will be relaunched as share accounts with a minimum of £2,500. Three other share accounts remain open but the entry cost is steep: Bonus Bond (minimum £5,000), 120-Day Account (£5,000) and Monthly Income Shares (£5,000).

1 Special maturity scheme, see also Nationwide Bradford & Bingley, Yorkshire, Coventry, Shropshire, Walsall & Walsall elsewhere
2 Outside Midlands branch area, £100 within area
3 Outside North West (under review), £100 within area
4 £500 in society's operating area

* £500 in society's operating area

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

WEEKEND MONEY 35

Who benefits in the great building society lottery

Anne Ashworth
explains the winners and losers in the race to strip away mutuality

In a mood rivalling the excitement of National Lottery rollover week, the shrinking of the building society sector continued apace with the Bank of Ireland's £600 million bid for Bristol & West, the ninth largest society.

This move means that anyone fortunate enough to have been a member of the six societies becoming banks or succumbing to bids would now be looking at winnings of roughly £6,000. The latest takeover leaves only the Nationwide, the Bradford & Bingley, the Britannia and the Yorkshire of the ten biggest societies resolved (or so they say) to retain mutual status. The rest are either becoming banks or being taken over.

In all cases, borrowers benefit, but only savers in share accounts with voting rights join in the fun. Deposit accounts are excluded.

The Halifax

The background: The first flotation deal to be announced, and something of a yardstick for the rest. A £10 billion share debut is planned for mid-1997, after a spring vote. Average estimated payout: £700.

Beneficiaries: Ten million members of the merged Halifax and Leeds societies.

The payout: Qualifying investing and borrowing members with balances of at least £100 at November 25, 1994, will receive a basic distribution of Halifax shares. They must maintain the £100 balance until conversion. Qualifying investing members of two years' standing on the conversion date (yet to be set) with balances of £1,000-£50,000 will receive the variable distribution based on their balance. The number of extra shares will be calculated by reference to the lowest total balance on the account at midnight on two reference dates. The first is November 25, 1994. The other date will be announced in advance to allow investors to replenish their accounts. They can withdraw cash in the interim, but they must maintain a balance of at least £100. Helpline 0800 888844.



The Woolwich

The background: Despite the sudden exit of Peter Robinson, chief executive, the society still plans a £3 billion flotation next autumn. However, another bidder could intervene. Potential aggressors include BAT, Midland, Prudential, Royal Bank of Scotland or a European or Australian bank. This could improve the payouts. If the original scheme goes ahead, anyone who did not have £100 invested last December 31 will be excluded — a decision that has upset thousands of investors who had transferred cash into cheque accounts, allowing their share accounts to fall below £100. These cheque accounts do not carry voting rights. Aggrieved investors have formed an action group (see page 34).

Average estimated payout: £1,000.
Beneficiaries: Four million. The payout: There will be a basic distribution to all members with the society at December 31, 1995, and who remain until conversion. There will also be an additional variable distribution for certain investors based on their balance at December 31, 1995, and at another date to be announced retrospectively. Helpline 0345 022033.

Alliance & Leicester

The background: The owner of Girobank intends to become a public company by next spring. Girobank customers will not share in the largesse as they are not members of the society. This has caused irritation. Peter White, chief executive, says details will be available when the deal is approved by the Building Societies Commission. Average payout: £800.
Beneficiaries: Three million. The payout: Free shares will be distributed to borrowing and saving members at December 31, 1995, who remain until conversion. In a significant concession, savers who did not have the all-important £100 invested can replenish accounts. But they must act at least 56 days before the voting date, expected in the autumn. Helpline: 0345 221144.

National & Provincial

The background: N&P members will receive their loot from Abbey National's £1.3 billion takeover of their society in September. Beneficiaries: 1.4 million. Average payout: £1,000. Helpline: 0800 886633.

The payout: Borrowers and savers at April 28, 1995, and December 31, 1995, will get £500 of free Abbey shares (basic distribution). Those on the books at December 31, 1993, get £750 (cash or shares) and 7 per cent of the lower of their account balances at April 23, 1995, and at midnight, August 4, 1996, up to £50,000 (variable distribution). Helpline: 0345 697349.

Bristol & West

The background: Bristol & West will become the Bank of Ireland's specialist savings and mortgage division. Members who were on the books at April 15, 1996, will benefit. Average payout: £1,000. Beneficiaries: 1.1 million. The payout: Savers at December 31, 1994 (with £100 or more by April 15, 1996) will get at least a fixed £100 in cash, plus a variable distribution related to balances up to £10,000. Those with less than £100 on April 15 can top up their accounts by December 31 but will only qualify for a fixed sum of at least £250. The 60,000 savers who hurriedly joined since January, and other newcomers, will only get the basic £250 B&W preference shares. Helpline: 0800 886633.

Northern Rock

The background: A £50 balance on April 2 will allow you to benefit from the £1 billion flotation. Conversion is expected in the autumn. But the account must be topped up to £100 by the end of this year. Beneficiaries: 1.3 million. Average payout: £700-£1,000. The payout: A flat distribution of shares seems likely. Qualifying borrowers must have £1 in mortgage debt on April 2 and December 31, 1996, and at the date of conversion. Qualifying savers must have had £50 at April 2, 1996, and £100 on December 31, 1996, and have £1 balance at conversion. Helpline: 0345 448866.



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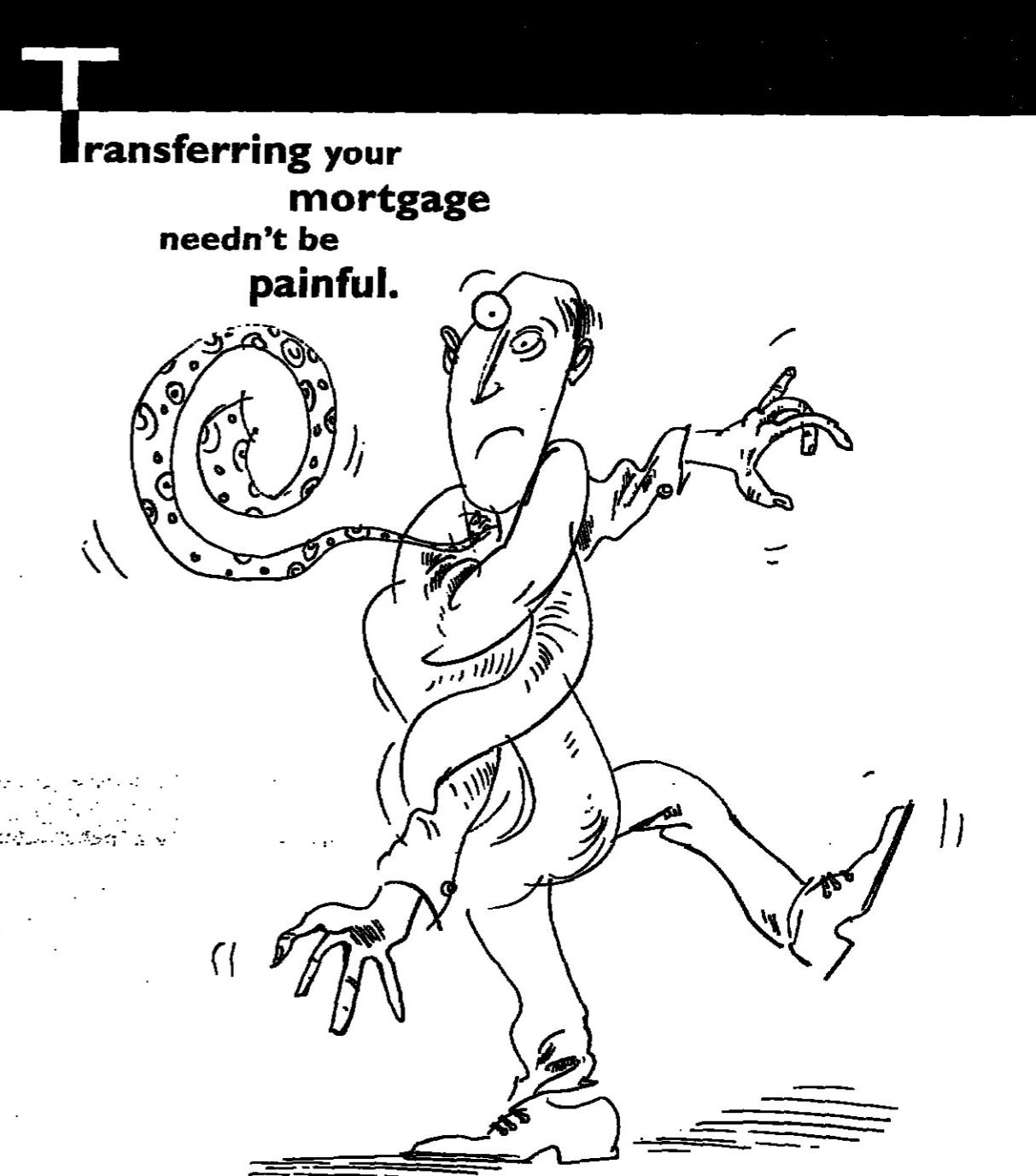
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If you enter the competition for your golf day, your entry will be treated as a separate entry and will not be included in the competition.

2 Trophy Requirements

The trophies for your four qualifiers will be sent to you for presentation on your golf day. Unless you state otherwise, your company name as given in section 1 above, will be entered as well the date and name of the golf club. If you require an abbreviation of your company name or instead shorter name altogether, please print here _____.

3

I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £75.00 inc VAT made payable to The Times Masserman G.C. Please send the completed form to The Times Masserman Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4 Hammersmith, London W6 3QZ. A VAT invoice will be sent with acknowledgement.

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Hold it, dear... it isn't burying its head.

The small print warns that it may not have one



Small print

From Mr S. Kitchiner
Sir, Further to your comment on ostrich schemes, I would like to share with you the principle that guides me when I make my investment decisions.

I am only a working-class pensioner, so I have to be very wary how I look after what little savings I have. As soon as I see an asterisk in an advertisement, I never read any further. I already know that the information small print below which they do not want us to see will show that the investment is not such a good deal after all.

Yours faithfully,
STUART KITCHINER,
45 Station Road,
Pitwick,
Bedford.

A different line

From Mr B. Crawford
Sir, I have just asked Direct Line for a mortgage quote for a house in Northern Ireland, only to be told that it quotes only for England, Scotland and Wales. Ireland, North and South, is classified as the same by them, and is considered different from the rest of the UK. Perhaps we could get Direct Line to take over the Department of Agriculture and award Northern Ireland separate status from the rest of the UK, therefore allowing the export of our beef to mainland Europe and beyond, or perhaps Direct Line does not consider the citizens of Northern Ireland to be British.

Yours faithfully,
BARNEY CRAWFORD,
17 Saul Road, Downpatrick,

Not a charitable word for building societies

From Mr T. Walliss
Sir, I continue to read in your pages, with interest and some sympathy, correspondence from individuals missing out on bonuses resulting from building society takeovers, flotations, etc. I have not read lately, I think, from anyone representing a charity. I cite one small situation in which I am involved.

I run a building society account on behalf of a Boys' Brigade unit. So far, it has attracted no bonus from the

takeover of the Southdown by the Leeds, the amalgamation of the Leeds with the Halifax, and shortly from the flotation of the Northern Rock. Just exactly what is the difference between our money and that of others? A director of one of the societies mentioned told me not to complain as "you do get your interest tax-free".

Floreat, floreat!
Yours faithfully,
TED WALLISS,
3 Claremont Gardens,
Epsom Downs, Surrey.



Brigade of blues: Ted Walliss with his son Gareth

Check the guarantee on your corporate bond Pep

Karen Zagor on suppositions by older investors seeking solid returns

How good is the guarantee on your corporate bond Pep? That is a question that few investors ask, but that financial advisers feel is important when choosing a place to put your money.

Charles Levett-Scriver, of advisers Towry Law, notes that older people, interested in making provision for themselves and their partner, tend to be attracted to guaranteed products. These people assume that any investments will pass on to their spouse, should they die during the term of the product. Yet in many cases the guarantee on a corporate bond Pep dies with the original holder.

Mr Levett-Scriver says: "There are legal problems with keeping guarantees after death, yet there is no warning in the literature that when you die the guarantee lapses."

After pressure for clarification from Towry Law, Sun

protection may not be worthwhile because over five years the stock market is likely to move higher. Similarly, if a guarantee on a capital growth product lapses on death, it is probably not worth worrying about. But guarantees on income products are important.

An intriguing new Pep from HSBC Asset Management is being launched. The fund will be set up as a traded company, thus meeting the requirements of a single company Pep. But the company's shares will reflect the movements of the FTSE. Investors will get the security of a diversified investment, while using their maximum single and general Pep allowance of £9,000. The HSBC Pep Plus is a growth fund, which promises full return of capital if the market falls. If it rises, investors will benefit from the growth in the FTSE 100, plus a 33 per cent bonus of the growth achieved.

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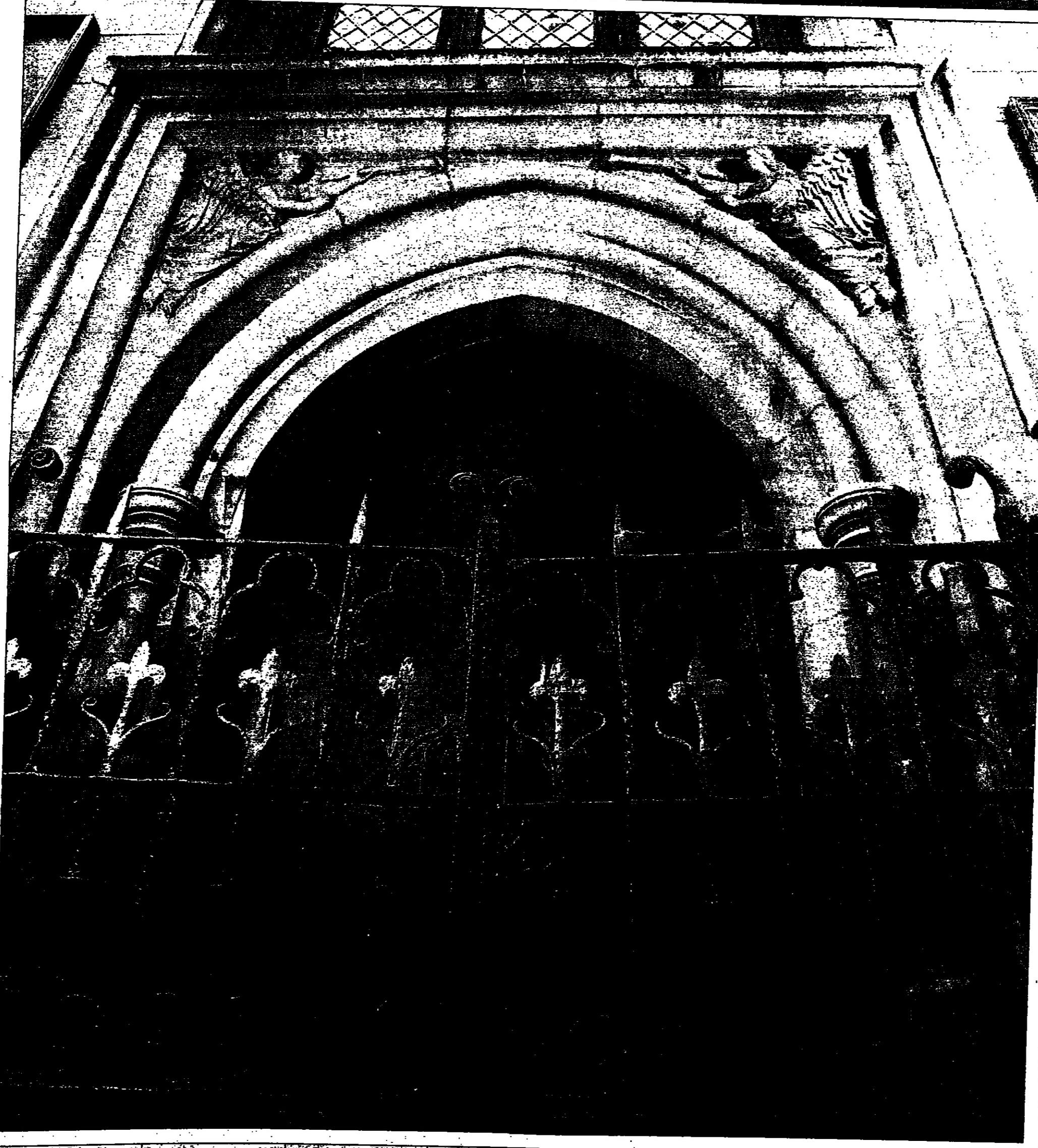
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FOOD	OFFERS	PROPERTY	PETS
Succulent fast food recipe for a seduction Page 3 PLUS: Paul Heiney on clean cooking, page 3	Win an adventure holiday for two every year for life Page 20 PLUS: Kodak guide to travel pictures, page 14	What to gain from owning an offshore house Page 8 PLUS: Mavis Nicholson on her barn, page 6	Does your dog need a personal trainer? Page 9 PLUS: Trendy fish make Pet News, page 9

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

HOW TO FIND OUR FORGOTTEN HERITAGE



by John Martin Robinson

Last summer, with a group of friends, I made a long journey to see St Mary's Church at Whalley in Lancashire, described by Pevsner as being "exceptionally rich in furnishings and especially woodwork" and where the star attraction is the set of early 15th-century choir stalls with carved misericords, rescued from Whalley Abbey at the Dissolution of the monasteries.

At 4.15 on a Saturday afternoon the church was locked. We went to a small, modern house some distance away to ask for the key where we were met by a woman who told us she was busy baking a cake and could not open the church for us, nor could she let us borrow the key.

The picture of church-visiting is not generally so frustrating. While it is no longer possible, as it was 30 years ago, to drive around the country and find all the churches open in daylight hours, with little homework (see page 2) the determined sightseer can gain access to many churches which, despite the destruction of the Reformation and Civil War, contain medieval works of art of superb quality, some of which are shown in the first part of BBC2's *A History of British Art* tomorrow at 7.30pm.

More than any other old buildings, these churches are the tangible expression and receptacle of English history: treasure houses of woodcarving, painting, sculpture, furniture, books, needlework, silver plate and stained glass. Moreover many of these objects have the unique character of works of art used and cherished and forming part of their original architectural setting, rather than being isolated, out of context, in a museum. The problem is that when churches are locked against thieves and vandals many seem generally inaccessible to the public.

The closure of churches is usually blamed on the demands of insurance, but this is often just a lazy excuse. The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, set up in the 19th century to insure all the Church of England, in fact encourages parochial councils and church incumbents to keep churches open and attended during daylight hours as the best means of protecting buildings, subject to sensible precautions and the safe-keeping of valuable moveable objects. Locked and deserted churches are much more likely to attract vandalism, arson and theft than open, busy-looking buildings.

Many of the greatest medieval town churches, such as St Peter Mancroft in Norwich, St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol or St Mary Magdalene in Newark, are usually open on weekdays when there are vergers present, cleaners at work, regular midday services and the general bustle of ecclesiastical life. The picture at weekends, which is when most people do their "church-crawling", is more patchy and varies from county to county.

Churches in the Midlands in particular tend to be inaccessible: Hawton in Nottingham, with its magnificent Decorated Easter Sepulchre, or Strelley near Nottingham, with the tombs of the Strelley family and a good Perpendicular rood screen, always seem to be closed when I try to visit them. Northamptonshire, too, which is criss-crossed by motorways and new roads facilitating the movement of the criminal classes, also tends to close its churches most of the time.

In East Anglia, however, where the churches, thanks to medieval wool prosperity,

Continued on page 2

FOOD 3 GARDENING 4 PROPERTY 6-8 PETS 9 SHOPPING 11 BOOKS 12,13 GOING OUT 14,15 TRAVEL 17-23 GAMES 25

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INSIDE STORY

2

The battle is on to keep the country's finest old churches in repair, open and used

Continued from page 1
 contain the finest medieval woodwork in the country — angel roofs, fretted and painted screens, carved benches, towering font covers — many of the rural churches are open at weekends. This is partly due to the activity of the Norfolk Historic Churches Trust under the direction of the redoubtable Bill Harrod, who for decades has campaigned to keep old churches there in repair, open and used.

Some of the finest Perpendicular rood screens in the country are in Norfolk, such as that at Attleborough, which retains its original loft and medieval colouring; Barton Turf, where the painted saints and heavenly hierarchies were cleaned in 1978; or Ranworth, the finest of all.

Then there are the tall wooden font covers at Sall and Trunch, the brass-eagle lectern of 1518 at Wiggenhall St Mary, and the 15th-century stained glass at South Creake, near Burnham Market, and much else. Nearly every church in East Anglia has some medieval treasures.

On the other side of the country in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Warwickshire a new initiative, "Through the Church Door", started two years ago, organises and advertises regular opening times. In England at present there is no countrywide information available as to when historic churches are open, though the Scottish Churches Scheme has published such a booklet for all denominations.

Through the Church Door, however, has produced the *Country Church Visitors' Handbook* for its four counties which includes regular opening times and, most usefully, contact telephone numbers for churches so that it is possible to plan a visit. This is particularly important because churches such as Kilpeck and Eardisley, both near Hereford, have some of the best Norman sculpture in the country, and the Malvern Priory the most complete sequence of 15th-century stained-glass windows in England.

A similar initiative is planned for the diocese of Truro in Cornwall, subject to the money being found, and it is to be hoped that eventually such handbooks will be available for the whole country.

The production of such handbooks might be something English Heritage should consider financing.

An admirable body which publishes county leaflets, but only for the churches in its possession, is the Churches Conservation Trust, formerly the Redundant Churches Fund. Set up under the Pastoral Measure of 1968, the trust

WHERE TO FIND THE TREASURES

THE ARTWORKS shown right and their locations, listed below, feature in the first part of *A History of British Art*, to be shown on BBC2 tomorrow at 7.30pm, and in Andrew Graham-Dixon's book of the same name (BBC Books, £25). There is also BBC booklet to accompany the series, *On the Trail of British Art*, which is available from BBC Education, History of British Art, PO Box 7, London W5 2GO, with a cheque for £3.50 payable to BBC Education.

1 FOULIS EASTER CHURCH
near Dundee (01382 580210). Can be viewed by appointment.

2 THE LADY CHAPEL
Ely Cathedral, Ely, Cambridgeshire (01353 867735). Open daily, summer 7am-7pm; winter 7.30am-6pm. Entry fee of £3 includes access to the whole cathedral. Tours available.

3 CHURCH OF ST HELEN
Ranworth, Norfolk (01603 270 263). Open daily until dusk, donations welcome.

4 CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE
Withersdale, Suffolk (01379 588343). Open daily until dusk, donations welcome.

5 ST PETER'S CHURCH
Wenhampton, Suffolk (01502 478351). Open daily 9am-dusk, donations welcome.

6 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Blythburgh, Suffolk (01502 478459). Open daily 9am-dusk, donations welcome.

7 CHURCH OF ST MARY
Ufford, Suffolk (01394 680055). Open during daylight hours, donations welcome.

8 THE MERCER'S HALL
The Mercer's Company, London EC2 (0171-726 4991). The figure of Christ in the hall can be viewed by appointment only. Contact Ursula Carlyle.

9 ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH
Wells, Somerset (01752 676906). Open daily until 5pm, donations welcome.

10 CHURCH OF ST ANDREW
Cullompton, Devon (01884 33249). Open during daylight hours.

11 EXETER CATHEDRAL
Open daily until dusk, but the gallery, visible from the cathedral, can be visited by appointment only. For appointments and information on tours available telephone 01392 55573.

12 ST MARY'S PRIORY CHURCH
Abergavenny, Gwent (01873 853168). Will complete a six-year restoration in October 1996. Open daily 10am-noon, and 2-4pm.

13 CHURCH OF MERTHYR ISSUI
Partrishow (Patricio), Powys, Wales (01873 810348). Open daily, donations welcome.

COUNTRY CHURCH VISITORS' HANDBOOK is obtainable from Through the Church Door, The Hay Loft, The Old Vicarage, Church Lane, Stoulton, Worcestershire WR7 4RE (01905 841554).

County leaflets are available from The Churches Conservation Trust, 89 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DH (0171-936 2285).

The Open Churches Trust is c/o The Really Useful Group, 22 Tower Street, London WC2H 9NS (0171-240 0890).

The front cover photograph shows the Hart Street entrance of St Olave's in the City of London. Samuel Pepys, who is buried in the church, saved it from the Fire of London by persuading the Navy to blow up all nearby houses. Inside there is a 15th-century doorway with the original door. On weekdays the church is usually open 9am-6pm and on Sundays 11am-12.30pm. The rector, John Cowling, will sometimes admit visitors outside those times if he is available. St Olave's, 8 Hart Street, London EC3.

AMANDA LOOSE

preserves churches of historic interest which are no longer in regular parish use and now has 301 churches, the great majority of which are pre-Reformation. The trust is a charity receiving 70 per cent of its funding from the Department of National Heritage and 30 per cent from the Church Commissioners. The

trust's more important churches are regularly open, and for the others there is an efficient system of voluntary keyholders whose addresses are posted in the church porch.

Where churches are in the grounds of a great house open to the public, as at Kedleston, Derbyshire, with its medieval tombs of the Curzon family,

they are open at the same time as the house. This often also applies to other churches in the grounds of country houses. At Arundel, West Sussex, for instance, the Fitzalan Chapel, with its superb medieval tombs, unique iron rood screen and four medieval altar stones, is open at the same time as the castle on Sunday

afternoons, as well as weekdays between April and October.

In 1994 Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber founded the Open Churches Trust with the aim of opening, at regular hours, important historic churches previously shut. The pilot scheme comprises 19 churches in London, Liverpool and Sul-

folk including, in Suffolk, the notable church of St Nicholas, Denston, with its splendid 15th-century fittings — carved screens, stalls and rood beam.

A further 20 churches are to join the scheme next month in the dioceses of Southwark, Manchester and Durham. Eventually it is hoped to extend the programme to the

whole country if matching funds can be found.

As a result of private initiatives of this type, more of England's incomparable treasures of medieval art are becoming available. But much more could be done to put them on the map.

At your service, page 15

Plovers lighten gloom

Feather report

WEEK I was watching some lapwings quarrelling on a sandspit when suddenly I saw another movement at the edge of it. It was a little ringed plover running past on twinkling feet. A moment later another swept through the air, made several zigzag turns above the water, and alighted beside the first one.

Some species have become scarcer in recent years. We have to lament the musical lamentations of the nightingale, now heard only in a few places in the South East, and many people are waiting to see if the house martins will come back to their eaves again this year.

The soft purring of the turtle dove is also now quite a rare sound in the English hedgerows, as the alarming report by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on bird decline emphasised this week.

However, there has been one notable success story in recent years: that of the little ringed plover.

There was great excitement on the shores of a reservoir in Tring, Hertfordshire, in 1938, when a pair of these hitherto rare birds was found nesting there. Three pairs were found in 1944, and since the Second World War their numbers have steadily risen. Now, about 1,000 pairs return regularly each spring, and spread throughout the country. This year they seem to have done it again.

Their slightly larger relative, the ringed plover, is quite common on the coast. The little ringed plovers are nearly all found inland. On the Continent, they nest on the pebbly shores of rivers, but here it is flooded gravel pits that have given them their home.

The sounds may not be very different, transliterated like that, but they cannot be confused once you have heard them.

Humans, far from harming

the species. Not only have they provided this new gravel-pit habitat for them, but the birds positively like nesting where there are workmen about, because predators such as hobbies and sparrowhawks will not come near.

In fact, their whole domestic economy is affected in an interesting way by questions of security. They nest on shingle or gravel, hollowing out a shallow space with their claws, and lining it with small pebbles. In this setting their four mottled eggs, laid in the shape of a cross, blend well with their surroundings. Some waders line their ground nests with dry grass, but that would make the little ringed plovers' nests on the bare stones too conspicuous to predators gulls and crows.

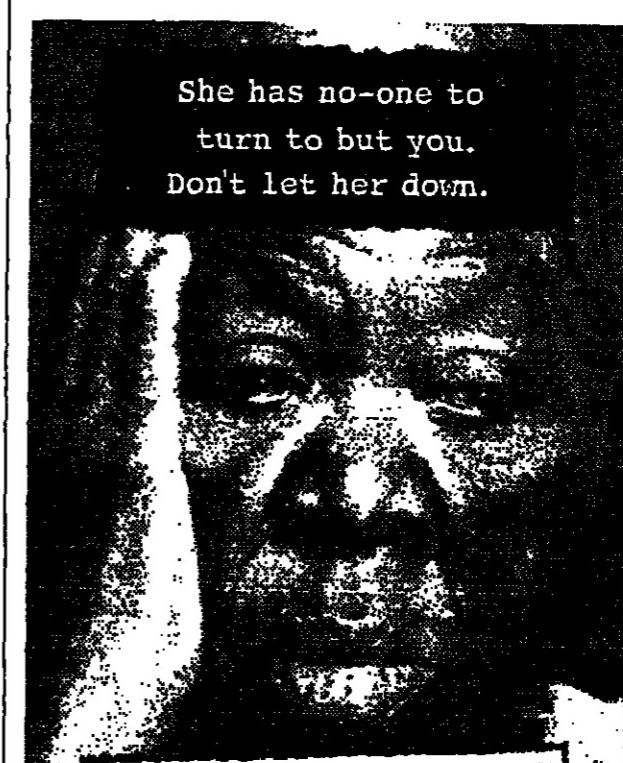
However, heat leaks away very easily from the eggs on this stony bed, and they cannot be left for long. So both sexes sit on the eggs, constantly taking short turns, and feeding intensively in between in order to keep up their own warmth.

Moreover, the eggs are relatively large for such a small bird, and take a long time — almost four weeks — to hatch, because the young must be well-enough developed to run over as soon as they break through the shells.

After that, the young quite quickly start feeding for themselves. But it is a hard life for these dainty little visitors every summer.

DERWENT MAY

• What's about? *Hirundo* — Watch for house martins over lakes and houses. *Trochilus* — Colibri hawk on St Agnes, Isles of Scilly. American owl on Stradmarsh, Kent. Two harlequin ducks near Girvan, Ayrshire. Dents from Birdline 0891 742222. Calls out 4pm a minute cheap rate. Shop till you drop.



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Or phone 0171 283 0283

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A 1920s cook

I am right in favouring the different tastes of the 1920s and 1930s, and I have uncovered some bizarre stories which I hope will entertain you. A slender volume entitled *The Book*, published in 1923, records that the Rev Charles G. H. H. was in fact taking horses and mutton to the front line in France, while writing the book. Another entry, which appears twice, says: "We also married another 'bairn' in the house".

For the sake of my readers, I have decided to keep some of these oddities, though I would prefer to have them removed.

For instance, we have a

decorative panel depicting a flower in the same place where a man served tea or milk.

Another entry, which appears twice, says: "We also married another 'bairn' in the house".

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JULY 10 1990

WEEKEND SATURDAY APRIL 20 1990

3

FOOD

A 1920s cookbook yields a recipe for Folkestone pie — good marching fodder for an army — and a host of tips on household hygiene

If I am right in thinking that Harpic is the disinfectant that gets right round the bend and puts the fear of God into microbes in life's less savoury places, then I have unearthed one of the most bizarre sponsorship deals in history.

A slender volume has come into my possession entitled the *Harpic Cook Book*, published in 1926. Can you believe it? Is it possible that, while history records that the smart thing to do in the 1920s was the Charleston, the nation was, in fact, taking Harpic to its bosom and muttering the slogan "a sprinkle at night leaves the lavatory germ-free and white" while consulting the recipe for kidney hopper, which appears on the same page? We are also told that this miracle product clears the drain from house to main, right alongside the directions for chocolate mould with peppermint cream sauce.

For the sake of my stomach, I generally prefer to keep some distance between "dealing with bluebottles" and cauliflower fritters, in the same way that I would not relish the *Elastoplast Book of Meat Carving*, or *Milk of Magnesia's*

Guide to Curries of the World. But people were made of sterner stuff in 1927.

But in my new life, which finds me increasingly wed to the kitchen stove, the Harpic book has proved invaluable. I now know that a proper housewife's duties include, at 9.45am, "rub up letterbox, sweep porch and steps" and, having spent over 10.30am and 11am examining the lavatory pans, setting aside no less than an hour and a half after lunch for washing-up.

However, all that apart, for someone whose declared ambition is to draw the world's attention once again to the value of all things homemade, this book is a treasure trove. No sooner had my eyes fallen upon the recipe for Folkestone pie that I had to make one there and then. And what do you think might be the principal ingredient of a dish named after this South Coast harbour, one of our gateways to the Continent? Some-

thing fishy? A French influence? No, this pie is mostly rice. I am as bewildered as you. I have been to Folkestone many times but did not spot any paddy fields.

To be a proper home-made dish, the recipe has to have nothing in it that could not have been bought over the counter of any grocer's shop in the 1950s. Nor for nostalgic reasons, but because I have set myself the task of understanding ingredients, and you are never going to appreciate the joys of, say, Yorkshire pudding if you buy a bag of ready-mixed powders. I prefer to start from scratch.

So, for the Folkestone pie I first needed some pastry. Straight away I find I am being untrue to my principles, because I

have always had problems with pastry. It is the bit where "you rub the fat into the flour till it resembles breadcrumbs". I have never created anything other than greasy, floured lumps by this method — certainly not dough.

The *Harpic Cook Book* offers good advice on pastry-making but it is adjacent to a sermon called the "ABC of Home Sanitation", and I found my eyes wandering to a worrying phrase: "Pause to consider how seldom is every house in any street entirely free of contagious diseases."

So, because I was in a hurry to bring you this dish, I bought frozen pastry, rolled it out and lined a shallow pie dish. I then baked it in a hot oven till crispy.

Not the oven about which I was writing last week; that is still undergoing a face transplant. I popped it into the Aga. An Aga, according to its high priestess Mary Berry, seems to be one of those things into which you never put things, you always "pop" them, like popping to the lavatory. Sorry. Harpic on the brain.

For the filling of the Folkestone pie, you need 3oz of pudding rice simmered in a pint of milk for about half an hour until you have a creamy rice pudding. You might think it is worth stopping here and just tucking in, but you would be missing a treat. Add to your creamy rice a hefty knob of butter, a good handful of currants, 4oz of sugar and a couple of well-beaten eggs. Pour this mixture into the pie dish, now lined with crisp pastry, and bake for half an hour or so until it goes slightly brown on top.

The book says that this can be served hot or cold and that an ideal accompaniment is a spoonful of marshmallow cream. Never heard of it have you? By coincidence, a Kenwood Chef cook-book (published but judging by the ladies' hairdos about 1955) tells me that whisking together for a hearty four minutes one egg white and half a pound of sieved jam produces the stuff, and that it keeps well in the refrigerator.

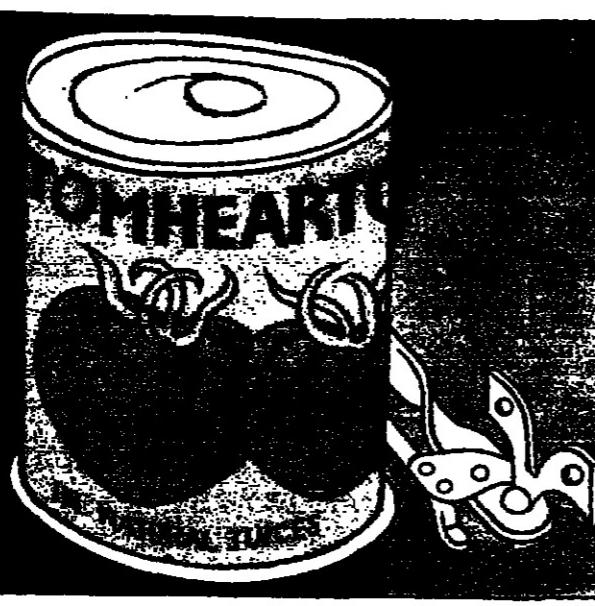
I found it disappointing: too sweet, sticky and gluey for me.

But Folkestone pie is a different matter. Admittedly, it is the sort of food on which an army could march a long way, assuming it ever managed to start moving at all after such an assault on its stomach, but it hits the spot on a cold day, it is real food, and truly homemade. If I could suggest an improvement, I would spread a generous layer of bitter marmalade on the pastry before adding the rice mixture, and sprinkle a little nutmeg on the top of the rice before baking. It needs a little more sweetness down below, and a touch more spice on top. Just like Folkestone, really.

MARTIN BEDDALL

PAUL HEINEY

HOME MADE



DIGEST

All the buzz from France

WELL placed to win an award for the most far-fetched food product of 1990 is *Miel des Toits de Paris*, an exclusive honey from leading Paris grocer Fauchon, on sale at Selfridges at £9.50 for a 125g (4½ oz) jar.

Why so expensive? Because of its rarity. The honey comes from a hive kept on the roof of the Paris opera house. It was installed in 1984 by the opera's interior designer, Jean Pauton, who was trying to find a temporary home for the bees. About 500 pots of honey are made a year.

In case you're worrying that the honey might be tainted with Gauloise smoke, traffic fumes or the odd pigeon dropping, rest assured. The 1995 vintage (yes, a vintage is declared each year) is delectably sweet, sticky and smells of lime blossom. The honey keeps indefinitely.

Kid stuff?

STRANGE when we have embraced the Mediterranean diet so wholeheartedly that we have never really taken to kid, a delicacy in countries such as Greece and Italy, where it constitutes the centrepiece of the Easter table.

Bob Kennard, a Welsh farmer supplying organic meat, reckons it is the name that puts people off. He prefers to call it goat, but says that up to now there hasn't been much demand for it. "People are happy to eat lamb, but offer them goat and they go all goofy," he says.

Since the BSE scare, Mr Kennard has seen an upsurge of interest in goat, which is a slightly gamier alternative to lamb. Mr Kennard's new season's leg of lamb costs £9.61 a kilo; a leg of goat is £5.90. Contact him at Craig Farm, Dolau, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5TL (01597 851655).

Join the Yakult

EVERYONE, according to the advertisements in the national media over the past week, is taking Yakult. For those of you who haven't dropped it into your conversation, Yakult is a Japanese, fermented drink containing five bacteria which apparently promotes healthy "intestinal flora". It comes in a strip of seven tiny 65ml plastic bottles, each of which, the company claims, contains 6.5 million lactic acid bacteria Shirota, the lactic acid bacteria named after the doctor who identified this strain 60 years ago.

After three days of swigging it, I have to report my intestinal flora seem much the same as usual. It tastes a bit like a mandarin-flavoured yoghurt drink but is nothing to write home about. It is, however, a brilliant money-making idea. Keeping my family of six in Yakult for a year would cost £780, which may explain why the company has a turnover of £154 billion worldwide.

Serve pudding

Take the ice-cream out of the freezer. Bring the water under the chocolate sauce to the boil and heat until it is hot. Serve the ice-cream in bowls and pour the sauce on top.

HATTIE ELLIS

Shopping list

- Dairy
- Small tub ice-cream
- 20g parmesan cheese
- 2 tbs milk

- Shellfish
- 200g (7oz) frozen, cooked and peeled tiger prawns

- Savoury goods
- 280g (10oz) bottle artichoke hearts in oil
- 400g (14oz) can

- chopped tomatoes
- ½ tsp dried chilli flakes
- few drops sherry or wine vinegar

- Sweet goods
- 50g (2oz) plain chocolate

- Drink
- 1 bottle of champagne or sparkling wine
- 1 tbs Cointreau (or other liqueur)

Takeaway chic

UBIQUITOUS television chef and restaurateur Antony Worrall Thompson seems to be taking the name of his latest restaurant, Drones, lit-

erally. He has opened a shop next door providing ready-cooked food for those who don't want to lift a finger in the kitchen.

The deal's a good one. Lunch at Drones and you'll pay about £30 a head for a three-course meal, presumably for the benefit of sitting — as I did — next to Joan Collins. You can take away similar dishes from The Grocer (as the takeaway side is called) for £10 to £12.

The dinner-party pack the day I was there contained antipasti, lamb tagine and couscous, and blood orange and chocolate trifle — all for £10.50. You could, alternatively, have picked up tomato, fennel and basil soup, seared smoked salmon and mango salad, Jamaican rabbit curry,

coq au vin, chocolate and raspberry terrine, assorted oils, spices and pickles, and even a carton of milk. The menu changes every day, but if you want something specific tell them in advance and they'll make it for you.

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like it strong! Rule two (and more important): never ask for a white — ask for a late or a cappuccino. The difference between the two is a matter of foam. Cappuccino is frothier. It contains a slug of espresso topped up half-and-half with steamed and foamed milk. Latte (which rhymes with satay) has mostly steamed milk, with a spoonful of foam on top. Latte Macchiato (mokkachino), on the other hand, reverses the process by adding a shot of coffee to the milk, as opposed to an Espresso Macchiato, which adds a

dash of milk to the coffee. Confused? You ain't heard nothing yet. Real coffee addicts (and health nuts) customise their coffees. You saunter in a Kate Moss-ish way and ask for a Tall Skinny — a late made with a double portion of non-fat milk. And don't look surprised when it comes in a glass.

Try American-style coffee at branches of Aroma in London, Coffee Republic in South Molton Street, W1, and the Seattle Coffee Company in Covent Garden and Cambridge.

Erroneous zone

THE BLURB on book dustjackets is often astute, but new depths are plumbed by Margi Clarke's *Better Than Sex Cookbook* (Hodder, £14.99). "Food That Makes Love To Your Tastebuds" trills the cover. Inside are some pretty sad recipes. If Ms Clarke finds Quorn and Beansprout Parcels better than sex I suggest she was the wrong woman to front ITV's *Sex Guide*.

FIONA BECKETT

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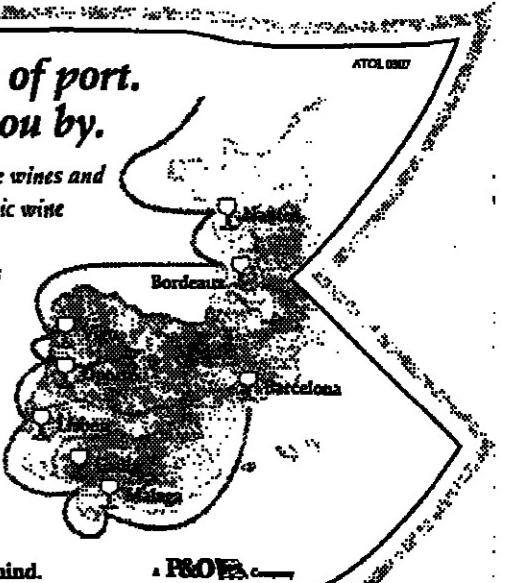
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Chocolate in Yorkshire, page 21

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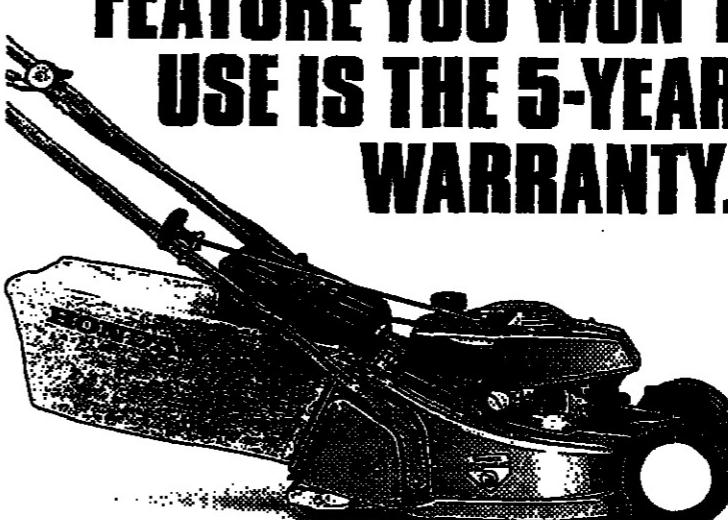
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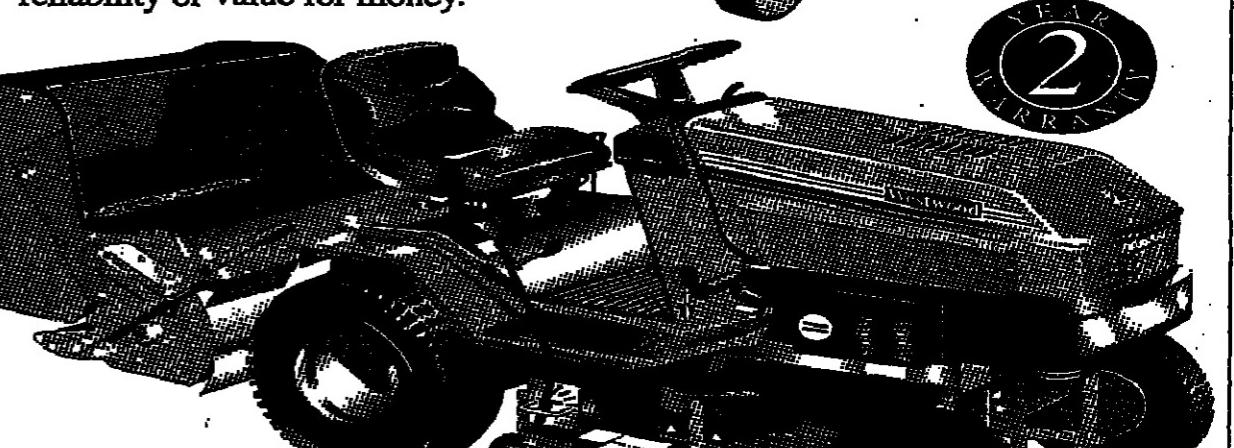


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LONDON:
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On Guernsey. Shields & Co is asking £7 million for Havilland Hall near St Peter Port. This Regency house was built at the turn of the 19th century for Sir Thomas de Havilland

Britain's offshore islands have a romantic appeal for house buyers, especially if you are wealthy and looking for seclusion and low taxes.

They range from the warm, sunny and sophisticated Channel Islands to the cooler, civilised Isle of Man. Property prices vary widely, as do the requirements for residence.

To set up home on the sought-after island of Jersey, with its mild climate and tax-haven status, being a millionaire is not enough. To meet the requirements of the island's authorities you must have at least £12 million in liquid assets that provide the tax authorities with at least £10,000 a year.

Potential immigrants must also have a residence permit, known as a ICI-Ki, which qualifies them to buy a house on the island worth more than £750,000; but only five or six are granted every year. There are exceptions: you may have a skill which is needed on Jersey, or marry an islander, which is probably the only sure way to become a resident.

There is plenty of property for sale on this 45 sq mile island, but only 20 or so houses are generally available to outsiders. You might pick

up a five-bedroom country house for less than a million pounds, but most cost a great deal more.

Income tax is only 0.2 pence in the pound on Jersey, as well as Guernsey and Alderney, and there is no VAT, capital gains or inheritance tax.

The largest property to come on the market in Jersey for years, the Trinity Manor Estate, near St Helier, has just been sold for around £6.5 million, through estate agents F. Le Gallais and Knight Frank, to the chairman of a large City of London company. The pink stone 16th-century manor house and lodge, in 139 acres of formal gardens and parkland comes with the feudal manorial title "Seigneur de la Trinité" of the Manor.

Another prestigious property for sale on this 45 sq mile island, but only 20 or so houses are generally available to outsiders. You might pick

Britain's offshore islands have much to offer those in search of seclusion and low taxes

18-acre estate in the parish of St John on Jersey's north coast, is currently on offer at £5 million through Hamptons Gothard and Trevor in St Helier. The 16th-century main house, built of pink granite, has six bedrooms and five reception rooms, including a vaulted ceiling and minstrel's gallery. It comes with a two-bedroom cottage, two flats, a swimming pool and garaging for six cars.

It is easier to settle in Guernsey, provided you can find a suitable house. Only a limited number of properties on this 24 sq mile island are for sale to outsiders, about 90 per cent of the 17,000 homes being reserved for locals. Of the rest, only few are on the market at any one time.

Open-market properties are highly sought-after and prices are high. There is little left for less than £250,000, which buys a Victorian terrace house or a small modern house on an estate. Detached houses in good condition range from £400,000 to £800,000. Larger country houses in up to five acres cost around £2 million.

Swoflers, a local estate agent, has an eight-bedroom period terrace house in St Peter Port with sea views, in need of modernisation, at £395,000; or a fully restored Georgian town house, with four bedrooms at £25,000.

For £690,000 you could buy Fort Saumarez, a six-bedroom villa and annexe in 3.42 acres with a Martello tower, on the island's west coast overlooking Lihou Island, on offer through Knight Frank.

Estate agent Shields & Co is asking £7 million for Havilland Hall, a Regency house built at the turn of the 19th century for Sir Thomas de Havilland, near St Peter Port. Set in 55 acres of parkland, it has six bedrooms and six reception rooms, farm buildings, walled garden, paddocks and tennis court.

lower than on Jersey or Guernsey. A two-bedroom flat in a two-storey block starts at £50,000; traditional stone cottages and small modern houses from £75,000. Bungalows with three bedrooms, garden and sea views start from £120,000; detached houses with some land fetch upwards of £180,000.

One of the largest houses on the island, a seven-bedroom, stucco-fronted Victorian house in two acres, the former home of the late cricket writer and commentator John Arlott, recently sold for around £450,000 through local agents Bell & Co.

The same agent is asking £79,900 for a one-bedroom granite cottage near St Anne. You could buy a pretty terrace two-bedroom cottage, with a walled garden, for £82,500; or a detached three-

cent of the property value, plus legal fees.

The Isle of Man has attracted many wealthy immigrants from the UK mainland, including Nigel Mansell, who last year sold his six-bedroom custom-built house in 160 acres near Port Erin for around £1.25 million.

The 27 sq mile island, with its relaxed, virtually crime-free environment, and taxes on income at 15-20 per cent with no capital gains or inheritance tax, stamp duty or property tax, welcomes incomers from the European Union, who need no special financial qualifications for residency.

It is a well-ordered community, with its own National Health Service, as in the Channel Islands, and some good schools. It offers mountain glens and deserted beaches, with good fishing, sailing, windsurfing, golf and motorsports, including the annual TT races.

There has been no property boom. The market is relatively stable, though prices are rising as more people move there. Many of the newcomers work in the growing off-shore financial sector.

Property prices start around £40,000 for a two-bedroom flat in a low-rise block. A small modern semi costs from £50,000 to £60,000; three-bedroom detached bungalows from £70,000 to £80,000, and four-bedroom executive detached houses around £150,000. Large period country houses with land fetch from £500,000 to more than £5 million.

Currently on the market, through local agents Chrysalis, is the Nunnery, home of Robert Sangster. The 18th-century mansion in 55 acres of park and woodland, with frontage on to the river Douglas, is for sale at £3.5 million. It has five bedroom suites, four reception rooms, nursery and staff wing as well as its own chapel, indoor and outdoor pools, stable, two cottages and two gate lodges.

Legal fees are the only significant cost involved in property purchase on the Isle of Man, amounting to around 1-1½ per cent of the purchase price.

CHERYL TAYLOR

• Jersey: F. Le Gallais (01534 666689); Hamptons Gothard and Trevor (01534 20358); Guernsey: Swaffers (01481 717600); Shields & Co (01481 71445); Alderney: Bell & Co., (01481 822562); Isle of Man: Chrysalis (01624 623770); Cowley Groves (01624 675494); Also Knight Frank Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man: 0171-629 8171.

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When it
tough
be a tea
angel



The best
car to have
when your
daughter
breaks a leg

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THE TIMES
CAR 96

Your last
chance to
enter our
driving
contest

Page 7

THE TIMES
Lease Plan **CD**
Company
Car
Driver
1996

SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

How drugs can really smash you up



The drink-driving message is getting through, especially with the young, but, says Alan Cops, the police need a new test for another problem

The search is on for a roadside drug test similar to the breathalyser because of a growing belief among police and motoring organisations that drugs, legal and illegal, play a far greater part in accidents than has previously been suspected.

Every driver killed on Britain's roads in the next two years will be tested for drugs as well as alcohol under a study launched by the Department of Transport in an attempt to gauge the true scale of the problem.

But police believe more urgent action may be necessary. Their concern has been heightened by research in Strathclyde, which revealed traces of drugs in 11 drivers out of 52 involved in fatal accidents. That survey was carried out after an officer investigating one fatal crash could find no explanation for a driver's behaviour. There was no trace of alcohol in his blood but a series of drug tests established he had been under the influence of temazepam, a powerful tranquilliser that can be legally

prescribed but which is widely abused and sold on the street as "eggs" or "jellies". This prompted a re-examination of evidence in 51 other cases.

"It is a real concern. It's not just illegal drugs. We want to know more about the effect on drivers of prescribed drugs or even things like cold cures," said David Williams, Chief Constable of Surrey and chairman of the powerful traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

"We believe that, with young drivers especially, the drink-drive message is getting across. Surveys show a much greater awareness of the dangers. But we don't think the attitude is the same where drugs are concerned."

Seven years ago, the last time the Department of Transport carried out its own research, the conclusion was that drugs were a fairly minor problem compared to drinking and driving. But a number of social studies since then, as well as crime statistics, suggest that while alcohol has become much less socially acceptable among young

people, the use of recreational drugs such as amphetamines, cannabis and cocaine has become much wider.

Earlier this year the Institute for Human Psychopharmacology estimated that across the European Union at least 4,500 road deaths and 135,000 serious injuries each year could be drug-related.

Although the figure for road deaths in Britain last year — 3,665 — was one of the lowest on record, chief constables are still concerned that a large proportion are avoidable. For example, tests show that 14 per cent of all fatalities are alcohol-related. Acpo recently agreed that drivers involved in accidents should be routinely breath-tested.

The main problems in devising a similar test for drugs are the wide variety of substances involved and the lack of data for deciding at what level many of them impair a driver's ability.

Wipes are already available that can detect the presence of cannabis, cocaine and ecstasy in a driver's perspiration on the hands, or even on a

steering wheel. But different wipes are required for each substance and even then it is a long way from detecting the presence of a drug to bringing a successful prosecution. Under existing powers police would have difficulty proving that the level of intoxication was sufficient to impair driving.

Problems become even greater when it comes to drugs that can be obtained over the counter or on prescription.

Even changes in hospital practice have compounded the problem. Anaesthetists have expressed concern about patients driving home after day surgery which may have involved a general anaesthetic. Such operations have become much more frequent in recent years as the health service fights to clear waiting lists.

Unlike their predecessors, which often necessitated at least a one-night stay in hospital, modern anaesthetics do not leave a "hangover" feeling so doctors are concerned that many patients are driving before the effects of the drug

have worn off, risking injury to themselves and other road users.

Similarly with prescribed drugs such as tranquilisers and anti-depressants there is a fear that familiarity may dull the effect of warnings. "Chemists are often very good at reinforcing the warning that drugs may make you drowsy or affect your judgment when they first supply a prescription. But people may go on taking such medicines for years and simply forget the dangers," says Edmund King, head of campaigns at the RAC.

According to statistics gathered during the Institute for Human Psychopharmacology's study, which was carried out by experts in 12 European countries, 17 per cent of motorists involved in accidents (not just fatal ones) in Britain are found to have taken drugs. These included antidepressants (5 per cent), cannabis

Continued on page 2

BEWARE FUMES THAT CAN LEAVE YOU HELPLESS

It was 7am on Thursday. I rolled out of my hotel bed and was hit smack between the eyes by a fast-moving bedside table. Dazed and confused I attempted to stand, but the cheap beige Axminster came sprawling up to greet me, writes Helen Mound.

Two blows on the head in as many minutes, not a good start to the day. I wish I could blame my intimate drinking partner, Mr Jack Daniels, for my intoxicated state, but the real villain was probably the unlikely figure of Mrs Mopp.

Evidently my hotel had fumigated the room with an industrial strength air freshener after I'd complained that it smelt of smoke.

The fumes were powerful

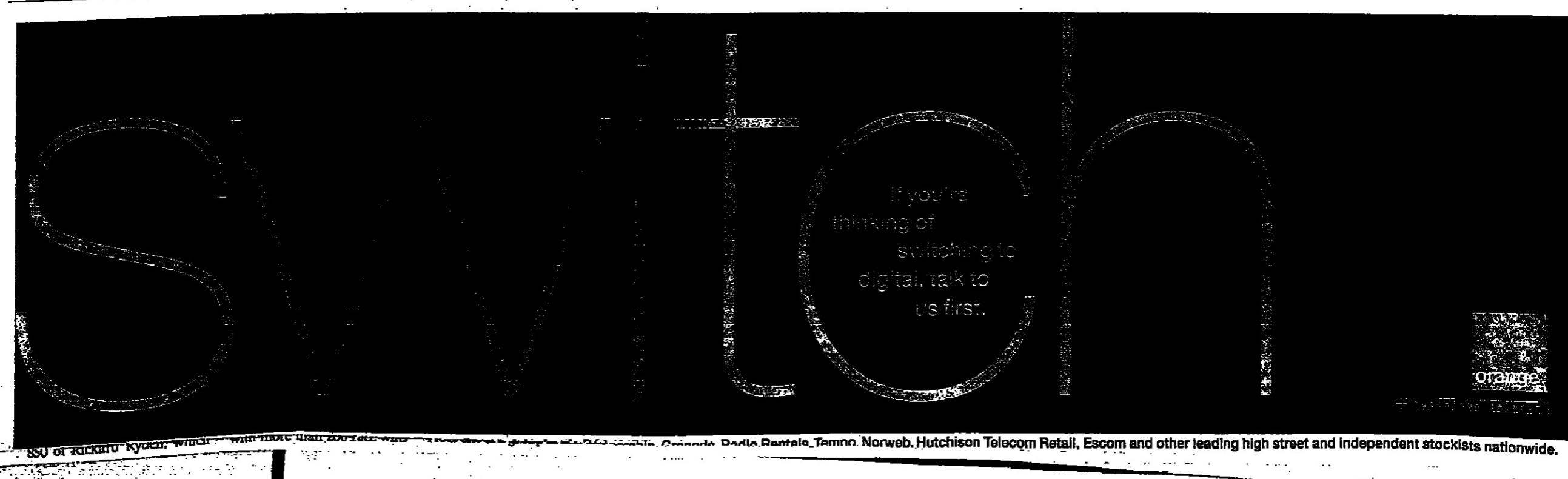
**Knocked out by
a blast of
instant fresh air**

but there are a lot of other drugs that can render a driver unfit or impaired without much warning. Experts believe that over-the-counter drugs such as cold treatments, cough medicines and hay fever cures are responsible for hundreds of accidents, because motorists are unaware of their effects.

Edmund King, the RAC's Head of Campaigns, says: "Consumers need clear information and advice on the dangers of driving when taking medication. At this time of year, millions of people are taking traditional cold cures, and will soon be buying sedative antihistamines for hay fever and breathing disorders that are common in the summer. All these can affect driving."

If you're
thinking of
switching to
digital, talk to
us first.

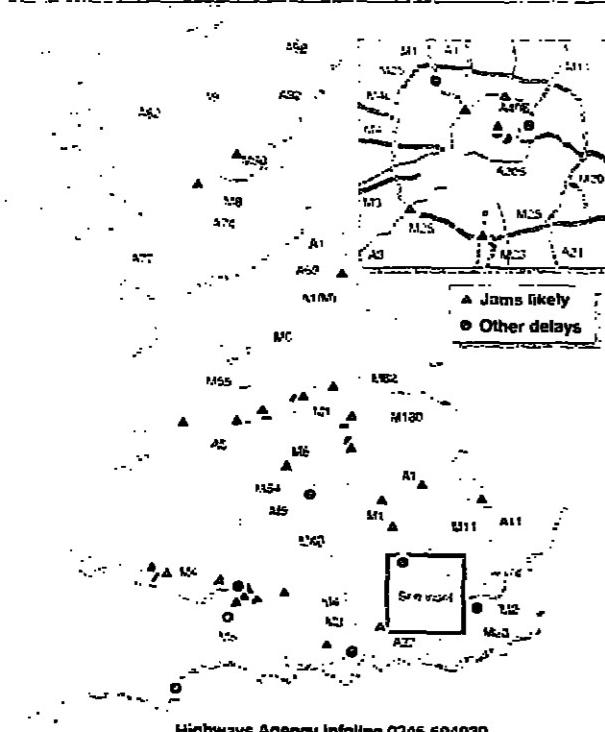
orange



AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

© LONDON
 A12 Eastern Avenue, Wanstead. Construction of M11 link road continues, reduced to a single lane eastbound between the Redbridge roundabout and High Street.
 A3 London Bridge. Major roadworks are restricting the northbound carriageway to one lane.
 A41 Finchley Road, Camden. Major resurfacing between Fortune Green Road and Frognall Lane causing long delays in both directions.
A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks continue over the Lea valley viaduct.
A406 North Circular Road, East Finchley. North Circular Road reduced to one lane at various locations between the A1 Fallowfield Way and Colney Hatch flyover. A roundabout has been installed at the Finchley High Road junction.
© SOUTH-EAST
 M1 Bedfordshire. Lane closures northbound between junctions 10 and 12.
 A59 Buckinghamshire. Major roadworks on the Wellington Road in Olney, at junction with Lavendon Road.
 A35 Hampshire. Lane closures are in place eastbound for roadworks in Southampton between the Rushington roundabout and the Redbridge flyover.
 A41 Hertfordshire. Roadworks on the North Western Avenue in Watford, just north of the Dome roundabout.
 A249 Kent. Major works at the Stockbury roundabout west of Sittingbourne cause lengthy hold-ups between the M2 and Kentish Town Bridge.
 M25 Surrey. Daytime lane closures in both directions between junctions 8/9 and 9/10.
© SOUTH-WEST
 M4/M5 Avon. Work on second Severn crossing continues, with restrictions around the Almondsbury & Aust interchanges and also on the M5 around junction 18.
 A4 Avon. Occasional temporary lights in place for roadworks in Salford at junction with Bath Road and Manor Road, affecting traffic in both directions.
 M5 Bristol. Lane closures in both directions between junctions 17 and 20 for strengthening of the Avonmouth bridge.
 A381 Devon. Long-term roadworks continue in Teignmouth between Salcombe Dip and Inverleigh Drive, with occasional temporary lights.
 A3 Hampshire. Roadworks and temporary lights on Southampton Road in Cosham, near Allaway Avenue.
 M5 Somerset. Contralflow at junction 23 for major roadworks with southbound entry slip road closed.
A55 Wiltshire. Lane closures in both directions between Chippenham and junction 17 of the M4 cause delays to traffic in both directions.
© MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA
 A601 Cambridgeshire, east of Coates, resurfacing and repairs between Gravel House and Gonsette with 20mph limit.
 A1075 Norfolk. Shimplash. Temporary lights between Dereham and Watton, with 30mph limit.
 A6 Leicestershire. Major roadworks.

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	APR*	48 monthly payments	APR*	48 monthly payments	Total amount payable
Hamilton Direct Bank	16.9%	£112.79	15.413.92	13.8%	£188.07
Mercantile Credit	19.9%	£118.10	£5,668.80	19.9%	£206.68
TSB Bank plc	18.9%	£116.33	£5,583.84	15.9%	£194.31
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	18.7%	£116.00	£5,568.00	17.5%	£199.32
					£9,567.36
					£540.00

*Rates are correct as at 15/04/96. The rates quoted are for new customers. Existing customers may be eligible for a different rate.

It's a single track with blind bends, cows, sheep and mud; the speed limit is 60mph, the same as for an A road

When accidents occur on the quiet

Three miles north of my house is a motorway, one mile south is an A road. Neither of these stretches of tarmac holds any fears for me: both are straight and well-maintained.

But the route to either main road is single track. There are blind bends: sheep, cows, backpackers, farmers, dogs, cars and passengers are among the hazards. Mud, spread by tractors and cows (mad and sane), provides in winter a surface that would test Torville and Dean.

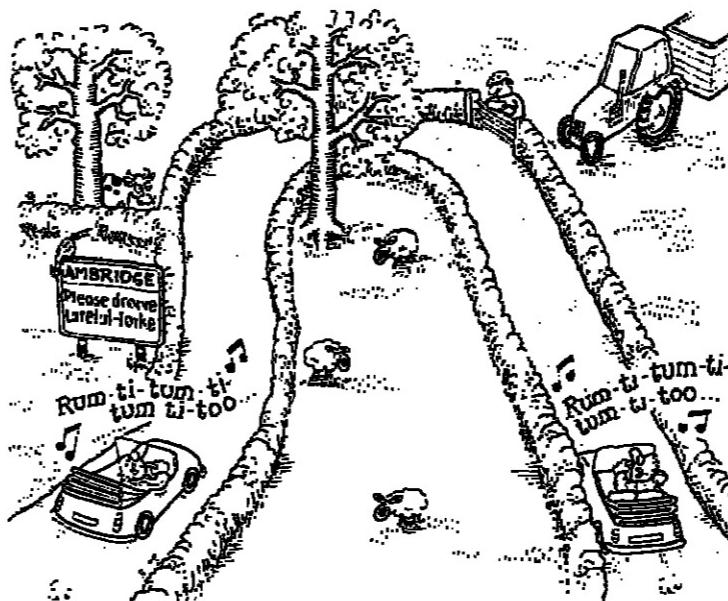
In a dozen spots within a mile of my house an oncoming car is impossible to see until it is 20 metres away (that's around 60ft in old money). Yet there is no law to stop me driving at 60 miles an hour. The limit on the wide, straight A road? Exactly the same.

Rural roads are the most dangerous in Britain. The Department of Transport does not keep statistics for accidents on rural roads specifically, but in its figures for accidents on non-built-up roads, the section "other roads" gives 12,375 accidents in 1994 against 7,906 on non-built-up B

roads. There were 33,818 accidents on non-built-up A roads, but of course these carry much higher volumes of traffic.

You may well think that the key problem is death on the roads, and that in this respect motorways are a much worse problem. You would be mistaken: in 1994, there were 1,990 deaths on A roads, 455 on B roads and 746 on "other roads". Motorway crashes killed 135 people.

Neither do these figures take account of unreported accidents. Most of those on rural roads do not involve injury: I can recall at least six such in my area in the past year or so. Allowing for the vast difference in traffic volume, this means that my three-mile journey to the M4 is infinitely more dangerous than anything I face when I reach it.



So it is plainly nonsensical to have a 70mph limit on a three-lane motorway and only 10mph less on roads where it is impossible for two cars to pass without one climbing up a hedge or bumping along a muddy verge. Why is nothing done?

The reason is publicity and perception. Spectacular crashes make the television news and bring out publicity-seeking MPs. "Something must be done" is their clarion call and often, something is. Something daft, usually.

"Volvo Estate Hits Tractor" is not the stuff of national publicity, even if someone dies. Yet there are enough

idiots charging about in the countryside to cause the carnage that the statistics reflect. All too often these accidents bring no prosecution because the police would have to show that a person was driving dangerously or carelessly. Travelling at 50mph on a single-track road is not of itself an offence.

Much as I am anti-legislation, an offence is what it ought to be. The Government could easily amend the Road Traffic Act on one sheet of A4 to impose a speed limit on single-track rural roads.

What should that limit be? I have spent several hours this week cruising around country lanes and reckon 35mph is about right. Even at this speed the stopping distance is about 0.5ft, too far to avoid an encounter on a blind bend, but let's not take this matter to the point where we would be overtaken by people walking their dogs.

You will now tell me that such a limit cannot be enforced, and you are right. But I remain a touching faith that most people take notice of speed limits, if only to the extent that they do not exceed them by very much.

So I shall send a copy of these thoughts to Richard Needham, my MP, a wonderful man who would not do anything just for publicity. For one thing, he is not standing at the next election. I trust that his farewell gift to the nation will be drafted on one sheet of A4.

Continued from page 1
(4 per cent), antihistamines (2 per cent) and amphetamines (1 per cent).

"While many of the drug-positive motorists involved in accidents are also found to be over the alcohol limit, there is a consensus among pharmacology experts that the use of banned narcotics and some medication drugs when driving makes involvement in an accident twice as likely," the survey concluded.

Conrad King, consultant psychologist to the RAC, says: "Drugs have a two-fold effect on anyone who uses them. It can be both physiological and psychological. Either of them can impair the user's ability to drive."

"With stimulant-based drugs, motorists would actually feel they were better drivers while under the influence, but they would become much more likely to drive recklessly and dangerously. With depressant-based drugs they would lose any real anxiety about dangers on the road and would not be able to react quickly to changing conditions. With hallucinogenic drugs reaction times will be altered and ability to operate the vehicle will be come erratic."

"Drug drivers may feel like better drivers in their mind but in reality their ability can be fatally flawed."

Two years ago 678,500 breathalyser tests were carried out in England and Wales, of which 14 per cent were found to be positive. In the same year 1,000 drug tests were carried out — following negative breath tests — and in 90 per cent of cases proved positive.

Some American states known to have drug problems use a "urine bus" in which drivers can be tested for a variety of substances after random stops. But legislation would be required before roadside screening could be introduced here. With existing methods it can be several days before the result is known if tests are to be carried out for more than one substance.

The RAC and AA support attempts to agree a Europe-wide, three-tier warning system for medical drugs so that consumers are clear which drugs pose a driving hazard.

The scheme would adopt a first stage to alert patients which drugs could cause mild side effects, especially if taken in conjunction with alcohol; a second stage for drugs that should be avoided before driving; and a third stage for drugs dangerous to take before driving and should carry a drug-drive penalty.

Research at the university has shown that people who spend more than 21 hours a week in a car or drive 25,000 miles annually are at risk of serious lower back problems and likely to be absent from work for up to 31 days a year. Men more than 40 who drive less than 10 hours a week or cover 5,000 miles annually will probably be absent up to a month each year recovering from back pain.

If fleet buyers think they will better invest in cars, looking at what their company is doing in absenteeism for car drivers, "says Professor Peter.

The research also revealed that older drivers report less back pain than younger motorists, which is thought to be due to the more expensive seats — with better seats and features older drivers generally.

Left to reflect on the cost



"On both occasions the mirrors were 95 per cent perfect with a tiny area damaged, but I had to replace them completely," says Roger Evans

Tony Dawe on holes in the Mercedes myth



designers to permit them to deflect towards the front of the car to any great extent."

David Regnard, UK customer services manager, added that the matter had been raised with Mercedes-Benz HQ in Stuttgart but "they are unable to provide us with a solution for the problem or make the damaged parts available separately rather than as a complete unit."

David Price of Llanwit Major, South Glamorgan, wants more than a free wing mirror after his problem. "I bought a new C-class Mercedes when it first came out in October 1993 but the boot soon became a complete rust bucket and I sold it back to the dealer in January last year," he says. "I was assured the same problem would not occur twice, and on February 1 last year paid £25,000 plus finance for a new C200 Elegance. It too, has rusted badly and you can see daylight through the boot area."

He consulted trading standards officers and called for an RAC inspection, which reported

that "the engineer was somewhat surprised that a vehicle of this build quality and age should have numerous areas of scum bleed and surface corrosion evident in the boot area."

P rice says: "This saga of two new rusting C-class cars sold to the same person over a period of two years explodes the great Mercedes 'myth' that their cars are the most well-built in the world. The company has offered to repair the damage under warranty, but I would prefer to trade the car back and spend more money on an E-class in the hope that those models do not rust."

The company has declined to agree to a deal. A spokesman said: "It is most unusual for this type of problem to occur on our vehicles. In Mr Price's case, we have been able to identify the source of the problem as water leaking into the boot via the outside light unit area and can rectify it to factory standard condition."

"The first time the mirror was damaged in a car park and I had to pay £225 to replace it. I bit the bullet," he says. "But the second time I decided to point out how stupid and wasteful this is. On both occasions, I was left with a hole in the wing mirror assembly, has to be thrown away," says Evans, a London chartered surveyor.

While his story highlights a scandalous element of the motor parts business, David

Price has a more expensive problem with Mercedes: two successive new C200s have rusted badly in the boot.

Their unhappy motoring experiences are among the scores pouring into *Car 96* after we opened our Cars from

the mirror on his E320 Cabriolet had been pushed

forwards instead of backwards, which normally happens in a collision.

During a lengthy correspondence with Mercedes-Benz, Evans was told: "Owing to the aerodynamics of the car and the need to ensure that wind noise is not created by these mirrors at speed, it has not been possible for our

designers to permit them to deflect towards the front of the car to any great extent."

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He consulted trading standards officers and called for an RAC inspection, which reported

that "the engineer was somewhat surprised that a vehicle of this build quality and age should have numerous areas of scum bleed and surface corrosion evident in the boot area."

P rice says: "This saga of two new rusting C-class cars sold to the same person over a period of two years explodes the great Mercedes 'myth' that their cars are the most well-built in the world. The company has offered to repair the damage under warranty, but I would prefer to trade the car back and spend more money on an E-class in the hope that those models do not rust."

The company has declined to agree to a deal. A spokesman said: "It is most unusual for this type of problem to occur on our vehicles. In Mr Price's case, we have been able to identify the source of the problem as water leaking into the boot via the outside light unit area and can rectify it to factory standard condition."

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While others talk about bodywork style and engine power, Helen Mound sends three reports from the interior

Fabrications of designing women

The seat covers for one in four cars in Western Europe were conceived in Derbyshire

While the man is discussing miles per gallon, torque and such mechanical matters with the salesman, the woman may well be looking at the new car's seats and wondering who chose the fabric and colour scheme; in many cases, it was another woman.

Based in Somercotes, Derbyshire, Guilford Europe produces fabrics for seating, headlining, door panels, sun visors and even parcel shelves. One in four Western European cars is trimmed with their fabrics.

"Interior fabric needs to echo the image of the car. In a concept car that means something futuristic, perhaps bold, but not alien, because it has to be welcoming," says Rita Hicklin, who, with Cathy Bass, Linda Fahy, Helen Scott, Alison Slater, Nikki Downes and Beatrice Frishkorn make up not only Britain's most popular automotive textile design team but also the only all-female one. "We haven't found a male designer good enough," laughs Ms Hicklin. Their portfolio includes designs for Ford, Rover, Nissan, Toyota and Skoda.

"Each client has a different way of finding their ideal design for a new car," adds Ms Hicklin. "Some have a clear idea of colours and patterns, others let us guide them with new designs. The key element is listening to the clients' triggers in the image profile, such as young, professional, fun, sober."

Designing a new car seat fabric looks like a lot of fun. The designers take inspiration from just about anything: "You can see a pattern in most things you look at — wrapping paper, photographs, even clouds. We put a small portion of our pattern idea on paper and scan it into a computer then we can enlarge shapes, reverse patterns, repeat designs several times."

Like the majority of automotive design, auto textile



Rita Hicklin, centre, and her Guilford team: "Each client has a different way of finding their ideal design. The key element is listening to the triggers in the image profile, such as young, professional, fun, sober"

designing is mostly computer based. The team's most recent addition, Nikki Downes, who joined Guilford straight from college, can vaguely remember what pencils and paper are for: "We did a little design work on paper at college."

Using weaving software the designers decide which weave to use — tricot, flat woven, pile circular knit or pile woven — programme in the number of yarns and colours, and the computer takes care of the rest. A disc carries the information from computer to loom which then produces 20 metres of the designer's new sample. Last year the team produced as many as 2,580 samples.

Meanwhile, Guilford's laboratory tests new weaves and yarns for quality. Textile tests include an abrasion test involving a large wheel that rubs the fabric 50,000 times to check for wear; an age test under harsh light; a stretch and set test to ensure the fabric can cope with the tension when it's put on the seats; and a weight-bearing test to see what it can tolerate before tearing.

Once a fabric has passed the designers' and the technicians' approval, the team starts work on an annual presentation of colours and patterns which they show to all major European car manufacturers.

"We've developed a reputation for being quite quirky and original," explains Catherine Bass, senior designer. One of the team's most novel ideas is using themes to present new patterns. It's Helen Scott's responsibility to put together this year's presentation boards.

Last year we used films as themes. This year it's restaurants. Tea at The Ritz, 'Ice-cream parlour' and 'Oyster bar'. For each theme we make up two collages depicting the colours and images it inspires. Traditionally, we use an autumn palette. Winter is too dull and spring

too washed-out for car interiors, and a bold summer palette is only suitable for a few hatchbacks and concept cars."

The Tea at The Ritz presentation boards display colours for executive and family cars, ice-cream parlour colours are for youthful hatchbacks and the Oyster bar displays all the new colours and designs for concept cars. This is the first year the designers have moved away from bright colours for concept cars and are using soft pastel shades.

"We take most of our inspiration from the fashion industry, which dictates colour trends, but we're also influenced by the fabrics we are in fashion," says Ms Hicklin.

Research shows that flat woven fabrics are the most popular choice in Europe, while American motorists prefer velours, which is advantageous. "Flat woven gives us greater scope for pattern, which is what Europeans are demanding. A pattern in a high pile fabric such as velour is very costly, but US tastes are conservative, and they prefer plain velours," explains Ms Hicklin.

Tastes may change, however, in the next few years with a new technology for printed velours. "We hope to get a lot more freedom to be creative with designs on velours using printed patterns."

Projects for the team usually span a four-year period:

"We're working on interiors that won't be seen until the next millennium, but that doesn't mean we have plenty of time to work on designs. Clients normally expect samples within three weeks, so we have to move fast, finding the correct yarns, dyes and weaves to suit the suggested designs."

Like most creative types, the designers enjoy seeing their work on the streets. "I remember when I saw my first design in a car, I wanted to stop the driver and take a closer look," recalls Cathy Bass. "It's strange because we design around 10 samples for one derivative of a new car and once the client has made a choice we don't know how it will be used on the seats. Then four years later you suddenly see it in a car, on its own or co-ordinated with something else. It's quite exciting."

Fifteen years ago car manufacturers offered two interiors, cloth or plastic; now the choice is vast. Interior design plays a major part in the success of a new car. As Ms Hicklin puts it: "Motorists and manufacturers are demanding greater individuality, but aerodynamic properties are forcing new cars to look the same, so distinctive designs can only come from the interior, which is where we come in."

Seating problem 1: expert analysis of what's wrong

Awave of court cases against employers who provide company cars with seats that cause back problems is set to change the way fleet cars are chosen.

A growing number of company car owners now consider a comfortable driver's seat more important than the usual tempting trim levels. In the past 12 months at least ten cases against employers have been brought to court by company car drivers who suffer severe back problems caused by long hours in poor car seats.

Mark Porter, Vehicle Ergonomics at Loughborough University, isn't surprised that motorists are turning on their employers. "Any company car driver who spends more than two hours a day behind the wheel should be provided with a decent car seat that ensures a good posture, otherwise they will develop back trouble, which ultimately is the employer's problem."

Research at the university has shown that people who spend more than 21 hours a week in a car or drive 25,000 miles annually are at risk of serious lower back problems and likely to be absent from work for up to 50 days a year. Even those who drive less than 10 hours a week or cover just 5,000 miles annually will probably be absent up to a week each year recovering from back pain.

If fleet buyers think they can't afford to invest in cars with better seats, they should look at what their company is losing in absenteeism for back problems," says Professor Porter.

The research also revealed that older drivers report less discomfort than younger motorists, which is thought to relate to the more expensive cars — with better seats and greater adjustment features — that older drivers generally choose.



Mark Porter: "Seats developed for comfort have been badly altered to look more elegant"

Lawsuits that come in fleets

The Vehicle Ergonomics Group at Loughborough University has researched car seating since 1981 and has evaluated more than 100 cars. When it comes to posture and how car seats can be made to suit motorists of all shapes and sizes, Professor Porter knows all there is to know. Standing 6ft 5ins, he has his own problems finding a car that's suitable. "I've had the Porsche 911, which is great for long-legged people, since 1982."

He has thought of compiling a list of models with good and bad seats, so that motorists can avoid the cars that will result in back trouble and consider those that would suit their stature: "A

good seat should ensure a good posture, rather than just feel comfortable." His research has revealed not all seats that feel uncomfortable initially are the culprits, but some that feel great at first can eventually cause problems.

We've found some aches and pains take 75 minutes to develop, so it's important drivers who spend a lot of time behind the wheel take a test drive that lasts at least two hours," he says.

In many cases however, motorists don't get a say in the choice of their company car let alone a test drive, which is why Professor Porter expects to see an increase

in law suits against employers who put drivers in poor seats. He recommends legislation to protect people who drive as part of their job.

For years ergonomics in the office has been taken seriously. Companies understand that a carefully planned workstation is important for staff productivity and comfort. Now they need to learn the same is true for those workers who spend the majority of their time in the car.

Legislation would ensure employers had to provide each driver with a vehicle suitable for their individual needs as well as the demands of the job.

It's still common to find seats being sketched by designers who have no knowledge of anatomy, physiology or the basic principles of seating and these sketches sometimes influence the final result. I've seen seats we've developed for high levels of comfort badly altered just to look more elegant."

At ease with your new car

● ARE YOU going to be sitting comfortably — however long the journey — in that gleaming new car? These are some of the points to check when seeking the ergonomically correct.

● ENSURE you can get a good posture in the seat before you consider how comfortable it is.

● LOOK FOR seats with a high degree of adjustability. Seat adjustments help to ensure that you can select your initial optimum posture and change it if necessary during a long journey.

● CHECK what sort of lumbar supports are provided. Your back will be your most vulnerable area.

● TEST the positions of gearstick and control buttons. Make sure you can sit in a position that means you can reach them without undue stretching.

● IF YOU are going to travel long distances or spend more than four hours a day in a car, try to arrange a test drive that lasts at least 75 minutes.

● DON'T tolerate any inconveniences such as offset pedals or a high steering wheel.

● FINALLY, remember that there will be times when you won't be the only one sitting in the car for hours on end. Take the whole family on a test drive to ensure that it suits everybody.

Seating problem 2: pain of a victim



Joe Cooke: "Companies wouldn't dare force a secretary to sit in a poor seat"

Miles of discomfort

Joe Cooke, a sales engineer for Shell, is one company car driver who is debating the importance of a good car seat with his back to his employers.

"I have to choose a Citroën Xantia, Ford Mondeo or Rover 400, but they all agitate my back," he says. "My old Rover 600 isn't on the list any more, but it gives me backache anyway because the pedals feel offset."

Mr Cooke is regularly behind the wheel four or five hours a day, and his back has become so painful that he often spends whole days recovering from long drives.

"I've done 100,000 miles in this Rover, that's an awful lot of sitting badly, and I'm afraid a new car will give me more problems."

He decided to test drive all

the cars that came within the company's budget and found his ideal car seat in the Alfa Romeo 155. "It gave me support in all the right places, the foam is a comfortable density and it has an effective lumbar adjuster."

But he hasn't managed to convince his company that his back is a more important matter than their mass fleet purchases from Citroën, Ford or Rover.

"Companies that force their drivers into unsuitable car seats are likely to end up with RSI [repetitive strain injury] type law suits against them. They wouldn't dare force a secretary to sit in a poor seat, so why do it to a driver?"

Mr Cooke's argument with his firm goes further than just looking after his health though: "It goes without saying if companies make their drivers comfortable, they'll be happier and more productive. I know when my back is sore the last thing I feel like doing is working."

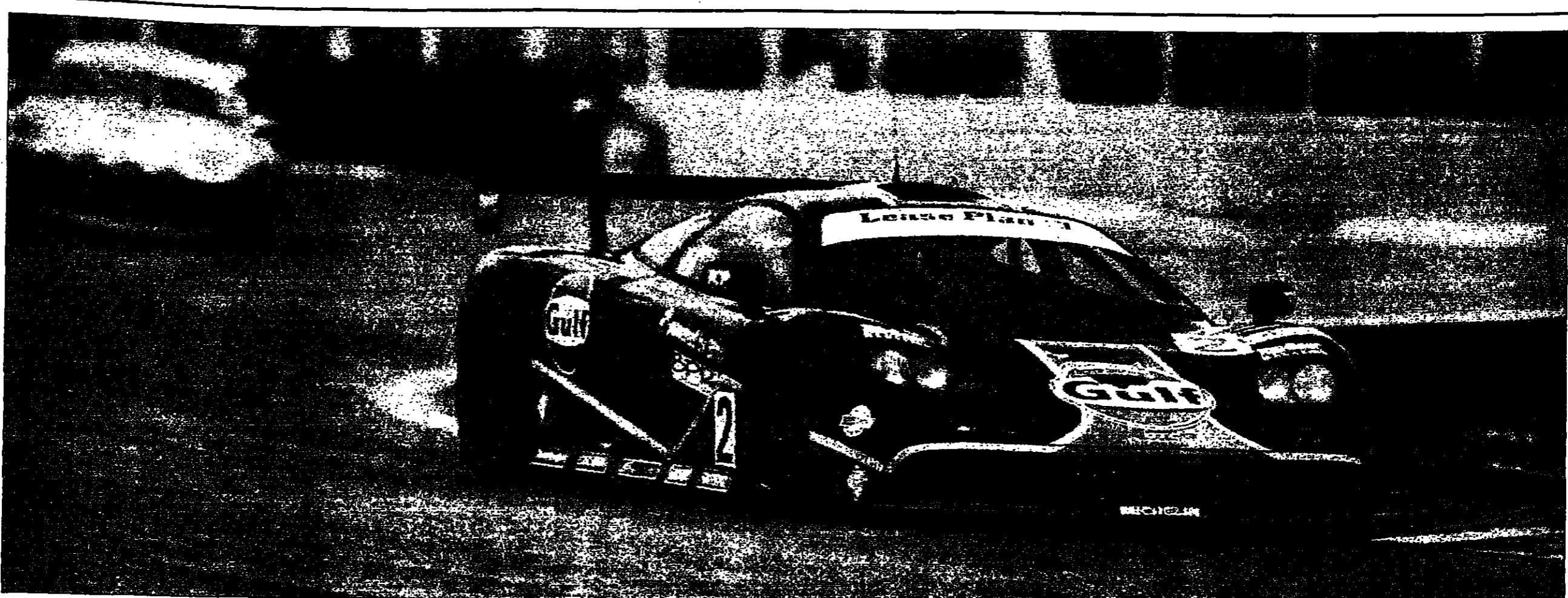
Professor Porter comments: "Only if company drivers convince their fleet buyers there's a problem, and they then put pressure on the car manufacturers,

will the situation change. Fifteen years ago the motor industry didn't believe safety would be an important issue for car sales, now the same is true of ergonomics."

The problem is that ergonomics is always the last feature to be considered by manufacturers. Car design starts with exterior styling and seat designers have little or no say regarding headroom, legroom or driving package.

They have to make the best of what they get. Which means the steering column, pedals and gearknob are put wherever there's space, and the legroom is whatever is left over."

His ambition is to work on a car that is ergonomic-led. "It would be great to produce a car that considers exactly how old, what size and what profession the intended motorist will be, so that the ideal driving position, interior space and adjustable features can be applied."



High gear in Provence: the McLaren F1 GTR on its way to victory in the first race of the championship season at the Paul Ricard circuit in what is perhaps the only class of racing where a private rather than a factory team can win international honours

Big Mac to go; at high speed

Fresh, fast and the stuff of fantasy.

Simon Hacker sees (and hears)

the McLaren F1 GTR demonstrate its powers of endurance on the track

The Big Mac is back — not the beleaguered beefy variety, but one of Britain's most sexy and successful exports. The 1996 McLaren F1 GTR is the latest supermodel to step out on the sports car racing catwalk, fresh from the gym, lighter, faster and packing 6064ccs of pure BMW V12 power.

The winning car from last year has been refined for this year's clutch of road users and badged as the LM to mark its victory at Le Mans, but McLaren still needed to produce a car to build on last year's coups on the European circuits. This is it as close to Formula 1 as mortal sports cars can get. The LM offers 636 brake horse power; this car has 667, although new air intake restrictions rein the power in to 630, with maximum revs at 6,700rpm.

With three rounds of the BPR Global Endurance GT championship gone, McLaren is back where it belongs at the head of the field. The Gulf Racing team achieved one-two in last weekend's four-hour round at Spain's Jarana circuit to add to its victory in the first race at the Paul Ricard circuit in France. Another McLaren won the intervening round at Monza, Italy.

That opening round was the 1996 GTR's first proper road test, in the experienced hands of Gulf Racing's James Weaver, 41, and Ray Bellm, 45. But it was no occasion for the faint-hearted. The team had just a week to get the car ready while the Ferrari and Porsche teams were buffing their fierce hardware.

Endurance racing, with its season including the nearly 24-hours at Le Mans in June, is enjoying renewed popularity this year, with the stalwarts Ferrari and Porsche battling it out with McLaren for the honours. It is perhaps the only class of racing where a private rather than a factory team stands a chance of taking international honours.

Its folklore, built up since

the days of the Bentley boys, speaks of the smell of the grease, the whiff of benzene and Bollinger and the pain of prolonged battle, dulled only by the promise of victory. But modern motors have made it a lot more businesslike.

When I joined Weaver and Bellm just hours before the first race for their discussion of tactics, the mood was as relaxed and convivial as Sunday tea with the vicar.

Bellm studies the circuit as we might passionately contemplate a weekend drive to the seaside. "Traffic is the problem here," he says, "with 51 cars on the grid. There will be 30 top-flight drivers. Some of the others are, to put it politely, a liability."

Weaver agrees: "This isn't about 20 laps and knocking people off; it's technical, and any minor error can be very costly — there are no easy ways to win. Two of the Porsches I know I can trust; professional drivers allow themselves to be overtaken and not lose time, but an amateur panics and is likely to do something daft to stop you getting past."

Both have a surgeon's eye

for what is required. At the Signes bend, which finishes the longest straight stretch in the series, they have to lose 60mph in 70 yards. Maximum speed here, says Bellm, is about 180mph. Some braking.

Last year's frustrations for Gulf at Le Mans frequently remind them that luck plays a huge role. Perhaps that's why, despite their technological edge, the drivers retain the odd superstition. Weaver refuses to wear anything but his own self-designed helmet and Bellm has a pair of "winning" gloves he just can't let go of. "Seriously though, when you're sitting in the car, you have to go with your gut feelings," says Weaver, "if you don't want the team's choice of tyre, you don't have them."

Still less is left to luck when it comes to food. From a mobile canteen that spends the year crawling from circuit to

circuit, Charles and Lucie Skipwith run the catering and hospitality for the entire team. And while it is their responsibility to see that Gulf guests dine in style, the real priority is to the boys in the pits.

The team gets through a massive amount of food — they need big portions and they need it now," says Lucie. On the night before the race, the team's success in rebuilding its second car, the 1995 McLaren, damaged that day during practice, owed much to Lucie's cottage pie, served piping hot among the socket sets, at 1.30am. No such indulgence for the drivers though: "It's very important that they are kept on a high-energy diet for 24 hours before the race... potatoes, pasta, not much meat — and absolutely no alcohol."

Enthusiasts will tell you about the cars, about the

women, about the excitement of it all, but what they never let you in on is that these cars produce a cacophony of sound loud enough to make your ears bleed. Come to a BPR race and forget your glasses, your picnic hamper but forget your earplugs and you're flirting with total deafness.

At the Signes bend, where every sinew of the cars pulls back to snapping point, the sound hits you like a glass wall. Here you realise the McLaren's secret trump card. The GTR's rump may be designed to do all sorts of clever things with downforce, but it has the physiognomy of a leering gorilla. Steering the nose of an F40 past these deep-set flashing red pupils must be tortuous to contemplate.

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Enthusiasts will tell you about the cars, about the

Bellm's decision to throw his team-livered cap into the crowd. Backstage BPR presents the winning duo with some Provencal glassware; there are no big cash prizes to be won.

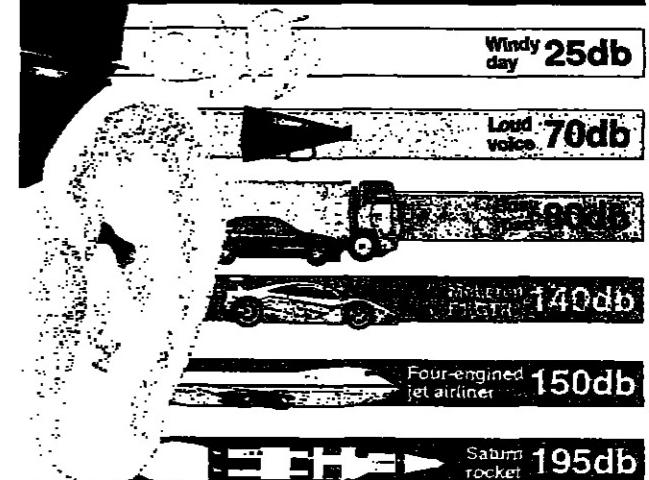
In the second round, Gulf was able to field two 1996 GTRs, but a fuel leak prevented the Lindsay Owen-Jones/Pierre-Henri Raphanel car from starting and the Bellm/Weaver car was in a challenging third position when it was eliminated after a close encounter with the eventual winner, another privately entered McLaren driven by John Nielsen for the West racing team.

The third round at Monza last weekend really showed the excitement of these races, an early phase of Ferrari dominance giving way to an all-McLaren battle with both Gulf cars initially chasing the Harrods-entered car driven by James Wallace.

Tyre strategy made the difference, with Weaver getting past the Harrods car with just five minutes of the race remaining. In the closing moments the Gulf racing team forced the pit crew to stop the race after a collision involving a pursuing Ferrari, which allowed Raphanel to take second place.

As the true professional Weaver, sums up the excitement of endurance racing: "You know what the best thing about all this is? You get paid for it, too!"

THE McLAREN ON THE NOISE SCALE



at full flow, 140dB. So if you intend to see it in action this year, be warned. Environmental health officer John Pultin of Stroud District Council told me: "One hundred and forty decibels is on the threshold of pain — if I was near this car I wouldn't like to be without some decent earplugs."

• Gulf Racing spokesman Charlie Ricketts told me that because 100dB marks the critical threshold for noise pollution complaints in the UK, test runs on the GTR at Bruntingthorpe had to be silenced.

• This car is certainly a chunk louder than the Porsches. In the UK, most circuits like Silverstone are OK, but people are more tree-huggy about these things than they used to be — they buy their homes next to circuits and then complain about the noise."

UPDATE

If you need advice to judge a fine racing driver, then sign up a novelist, writes Kevin Eason. Tess Stimson, the writer whose book *Pole Position* is definitely not about grid placings, has dashed into the lead in our celebrity F1 Fantasy Drive competition.

Her team, Blazing Saddles, seems to have the perfect combination of flair and points-winning consistency. Her top driver was Jean Alesi — not the man to win the world championship perhaps, but the best points scorer because of his ability to overtake, improve his position and finish.

The result, after two grands prix at Brazil and Argentina, was that Alesi was the top driver with 225 points, followed astonishingly by Olivier Panis on 224, then Damon Hill's 223. Damon lost ground for F1 Fantasy drivers because his results were a bit of a foregone conclusion.

Jonathan Palmer, BBC's grand prix commentator, turned out to be a smarmy pants by jumping into second place with the safe bets of Hill and Villeneuve plus the brilliance of Rubens Barrichello all coming through for the red, white and blue of his Team Palmer. Promosport's Chris Rea, the Northern rock star famous for his *Road to Hell*, clearly knows his Tarmac, jostling into third place.

F1 Fantasy Drive celebrity league update: 1. Tess Stimson: Team Blazing Saddles, 1,290, 2. Jonathan Palmer: Team Palmer Promosport, 1,263, 3. Chris Rea: Team RTH (The Road to Hell), 1,239, 4. Louise Aitken-Walker: Team Aitken-Walker, 1,226, 5. Stirling Moss: Team SMART, 1,224, 6. Nick Mason: Ten Tenants, 1,218, 7. Sir David Steel: Team Steelers, 1,191, 8. Lord March: Goodwood, 1,182, 9. CAR 96, 1,131, 10. Carol Vorderman: Vorderman, 1,122.

F1 Fantasy Drive update

THE TIMES

F1

TOTAL FANTASY POINTS AFTER ARGENTINIAN GP

Group	Driver	Points	Team
Group A	01 M Schumacher	173	Duplada 4 Racing
	02 J Alesi	225	Rabbit Racers
	03 D Hill	223	The Fat WEE Fishers
Group B	04 G Berger	111	G Leuder
	05 E Irvine	218	P Woolfson
	06 J Villeneuve	158	The Feel-U-Wells
Group C	07 D Coulthard	140	Knight V10
	08 M Hakkinen	142	Hill's Heroes
	09 H.H. Frentzen	90	Team Acronym
Group D	10 M Brundle	128	Duplada 8 Racing
	11 R Barrichello	188	The Rad Racers
	12 J Herbert	146	The Skidmarks
Group E	13 M Saio	155	Golden Step
	14 P Lamby	147	Wildine Wonders
	15 P Dini	156	Thomas's Terrors
Group F	16 U Katayama	143	Aqua lung
	17 J Verstappen	131	Formation
	18 O Panis	224	Riverside Racers
Group G	19 T Marques*	40	Brown Bear Racing
	20 R Rosset	53	No Team Name
Group H	21 L Badoer	127	A Sokoikovski
	22 A Montanini	143	

LEADERBOARD FANTASY GP RACE

Driver	Team	Points
01 M Schumacher	Duplada 4 Racing	1348
02 J Alesi	Rabbit Racers	1348
03 D Hill	The Fat WEE Fishers	1347
04 G Berger	G Leuder	1346
05 E Irvine	P Woolfson	1346
06 J Villeneuve	The Feel-U-Wells	1344
07 D Coulthard	Knight V10	1344
08 M Hakkinen	Hill's Heroes	1344
09 H.H. Frentzen	Team Acronym	1344
10 M Brundle	Duplada 8 Racing	1335
11 R Barrichello	The Rad Racers	1334
12 J Herbert	The Skidmarks	1334
13 M Saio	Golden Step	1334
14 P Lamby	Wildine Wonders	1334
15 P Dini	Aqua lung	1334
16 U Katayama	Formation	1334
17 J Verstappen	Riverside Racers	1334
18 O Panis	Brown Bear Racing	1333
19 T Marques*	No Team Name	1333
20 R Rosset	A Sokoikovski	1333
21 L Badoer		1333
22 A Montanini		1333

CHECK YOUR SCORE

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland 004 499 010 0332). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call. The line currently carries all positions after the Brazilian and Argentinian Grands Prix and will be updated again on Tuesday April 30.

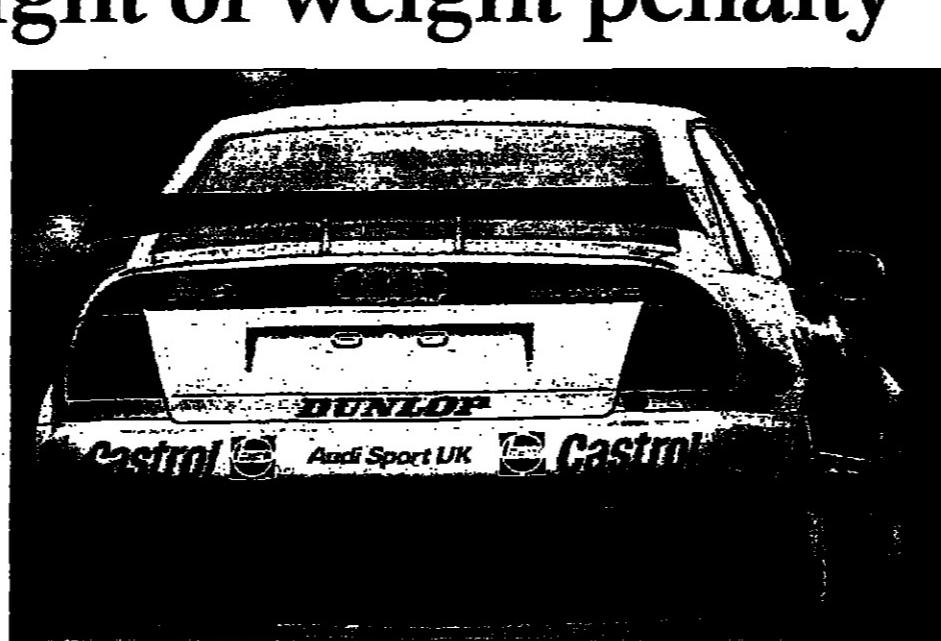
CALL 0891-774 734 24HRS

*Replaces T inuse

You can change up to four of your drivers on our transfer line below which is open 24 hours a day (Republic of Ireland 004 499 010 0332). Only one call is permitted in the present transfer period otherwise your transfers will be invalid. If you made a transfer last week you cannot make another call this week. Transfers must result in a team comprising one driver from each of the eight groups.

CALL 0891-405 032 UNTIL NOON THURSDAY APRIL 25

0891 calls are charged at 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p at all other times



Follow my leader: the A4 quattro looks for another date with victory at Brands Hatch

since it first entered the series; 3) The logo used on all Audi's four-wheel-drive cars is quattro. Cleland, who had been careful pre-season not to overstate Audi's chances, was delighted with his win. "I'm optimistic about Brands Hatch tomorrow. Audi, the new boy, in one of the most closely-contested series in the world, made a sensational debut at Donington Park, Derbyshire, on Easter Monday when Biela, who holds the Touring Car World Cup, won both races in the first round.

The Audi overcame the weight penalty imposed because of its four-wheel-drive system.

■ Biela headed home in both 18-lap races more than a second clear of Will Hoy in his Renault Laguna. John Cleland, from Yorkshire, who was recruited to the Audi team after winning the Ford Fiesta championship last year, finished sixth in the first race and fourth in the second, a confidence-boosting result after a spectacular practice crash last month. The Volvo SSO of Rickard Rydell, which

including those from the BMW and Honda teams, who will be out to provide stiff competition for the Audis at Brands Hatch.

After the Donington race

Biela has 31 points, Hoy 24, Kelvin Burt (Volvo) 14 and Cleland 13. In the manufacturers' championship, Audi

has 30 points, Renault 24,

Vauxhall 16.

There will be further competitions during the season in *Car 96*, with prizes including places on Audi's safety and performance driving schools both in Britain and at the Nürburgring Grand Prix circuit in Germany.

Change your selections

You can change up to four of your drivers on our transfer line below

SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

CAR 96

7

CAR TOONS



Haldane

RANGE ROVER

3.9 SE

Auto, 93,000 miles, FSH, air suspension, like new, remaining RAC warranty, £18,000. Tel: 0802 625252 (M)

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

4.0 Sovereign, L-Rim, Metallic Blue, grey leather, one owner, like new, 100,000 miles, FSH, very clean, £16,995. Tel: 01244 320220

JAGUAR S-Type Auto, 95M, FSH, Red/Cream Liner, ESR, 128,000 miles, £12,995. Tel: 0153 462598.

JAGUAR XJS

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SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

CAR 96

Hilton Holloway investigates Rover's little-known top model

A very British coupé de grace

Asks the identity of Rover's flagship motor, we are all likely to answer "800 Sterling". In fact, for the past four years Rover's price list has been headed by the mysterious 800 coupé, a car few have heard of, let alone seen.

Rover's would-be rivals, BMW and Mercedes, are immensely proud of their upmarket coupés and it is with such cars that reputations are made. So it is bizarre that, after going to no little expense in drawing up a two-door 800, Rover has done so little to publicise the fact.

All that is set to change with the introduction of two new 800 coupé models which could make a mark on the UK's executive car market. For a fiver under £30,000, Rover's most expensive car is now the KV6-engined coupé. This powerplant — the pinnacle of Rover's award-winning and much-praised K-series engine range — replaces the old 2.7-litre Honda unit.

The other model, new to Britain but already sold in Europe, is the 197bhp 2.0-litre turbocharged Vitesse. This is a fiver short of £26,000 and therefore something of a bargain on paper. Apparently, the Vitesse coupé has been successful on the Continent, especially in style-conscious Italy.

Whether newly-alerted UK buyers will see the 800 as classically British remains to be seen. I was surprised that the 800 coupé looked so good considering its age and strange gestation. Originally it was destined to wear a Sterling badge and aimed primarily at the US market. Rover stylists, led by Roy Axe, drew up the coupé with export in mind and it's obvious they succeeded in summing up all that's good about British design for foreign palates.

The top-of-the-range KV6 I drove was a model of good interior practice. Although the instrument binnacle looks dated, it fails to detract from the effect created by classy beige trim, superb leather



Rover 800 coupé: all that's good about UK design for foreign palates

ROVER 100

● The smallest models in the Rover range have also been given a facelift. Two new versions the Knightsbridge and Knightsbridge SE, replace the III, IIIS, IISS and Kensington special editions.

● Prices range from £6,595 for a three-door, 1.1i Knightsbridge to £11,995 for the two-door cabriolet.

● All Rover 100s now have door beams to protect against side impact and options include a driver's airbag for £245, said to be the lowest-priced on the market.

● There is a choice of three or five-door body styles with revised trim

seats and dark green carpeting. Having driven the new KV6 engine before in combination with an automatic box, I was amazed at the difference a manual shift made. It allowed the engine's fine performance to be fully exploited and encouraged swift, and therefore, safe overtaking manoeuvres.

But the 800's ageing dynamics are a problem. The manual box may encourage sporty driving, but the chassis doesn't. It's safe and secure, but rather uninspiring and is occasionally given to the odd loud suspension crash over really poor surfaces. The 800 coupé isn't a super-quiet cruiser either, with mechanical noise and wind whistling from around the pillar-less windows and wing mirrors. However, the really attractive proposi-

tion looks like being the far more sporting Vitesse coupé. I tried this combination in 800 saloon guise, as right-hand drive coupés are still a couple of months away. The four-cylinder turbocharged engine is extremely muscular and provides a satisfyingly effortless turn of speed. More importantly, Rover's chassis engineers have transformed the 800's undercarriage into a genuinely sharp and crisp performer. The upshot is a very satisfying drive. Best of all, the Vitesse coupé is £4,000 cheaper than the less powerful KV6.

Perhaps the biggest argument for the 800 coupé is its rarity. Drivers who want to stand out in the executive car park, and still buy what is now essentially an all-British car, will be more than pleasantly surprised by the Vitesse.

Hilton Holloway

Autosport, 10th Floor, 200 Euston Road, London NW1 2PF, UK. Tel: 0171 226 7000. Fax: 0171 226 7001. Email: hilton.holloway@btconnect.com

800 £12,995. **Vitesse** £14,995. **100** £6,595 - £11,995.

800 KV6 £11,995. **100 SE** £7,995 - £10,995.

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800 Vitesse £14,995. **100 Vitesse** £7,995 - £10,995.

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800 Vitesse Cabriolet £14,995. **100 Vitesse Cabriolet** £7,995 -

Stuart Birch and his daughter find an accidental advantage in the Citroën Xantia Estate

Definitely a car to have in an emergency



CITROËN XANTIA ESTATE

Engine: Four-cylinder, indirect injection turbocharged diesel giving 92bhp at 4,000rpm.

Transmission: Five-speed manual. Front wheel drive.

Performance: 0-60mph in 13.8 seconds, average 40mpg.

Safety: Anti-lock brakes, front seatbelt tensioners, driver's airbag, reinforced rear seat, high-level third brakelight, three-point belts for all rear passengers.

Equipment: Self-levelling

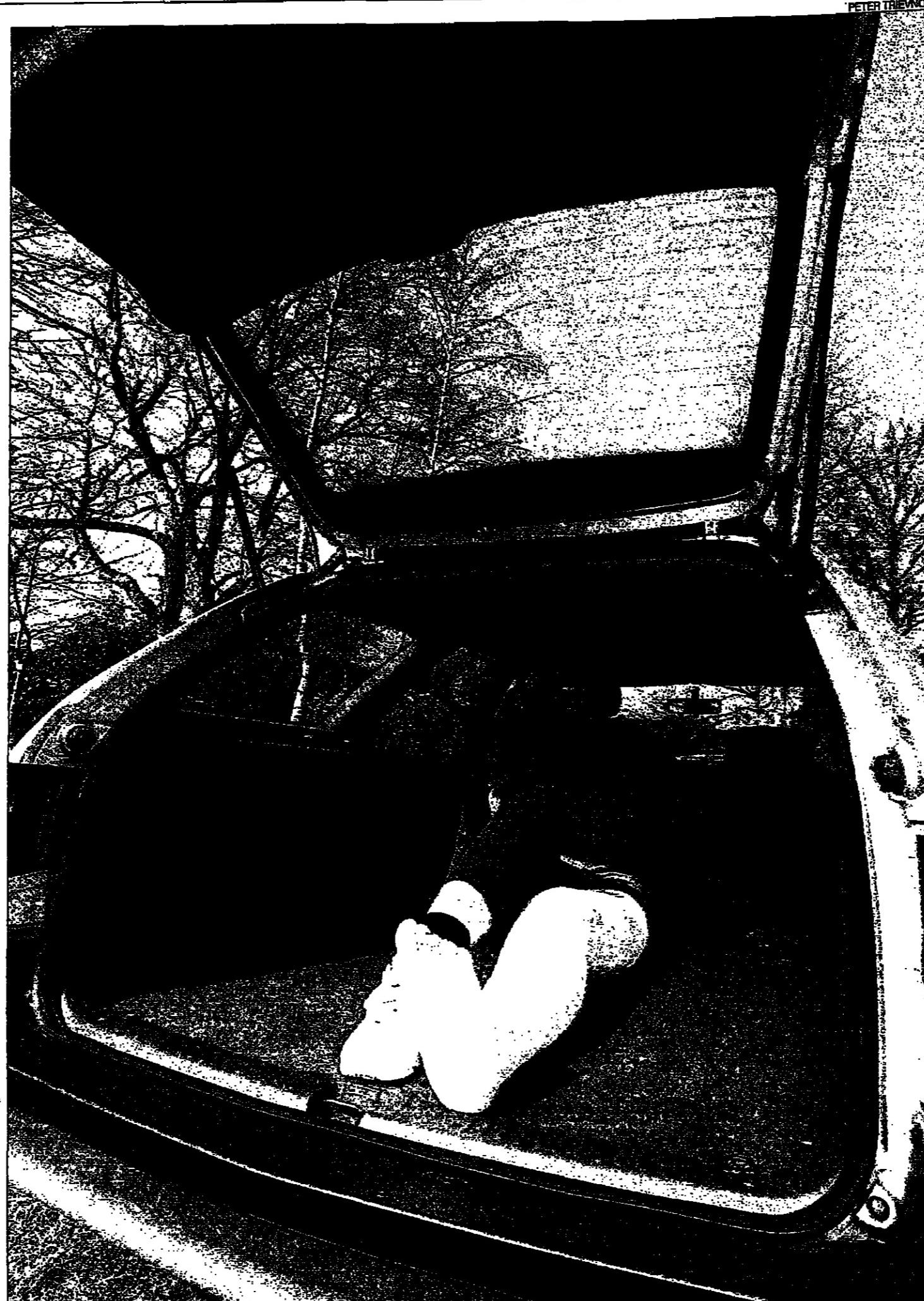
suspension, power steering, Blaupunkt radio/cassette player with steering wheel-mounted controls, electronic sunroof, electric windows, electrically heated and adjustable mirrors.

Security: Infra-red remote central locking/deadlocks and keypad immobiliser.

Seating: Height and lumbar support adjustment for driver and central rear armrest.

Price: £16,795.

Health note: Eleanor is making a good recovery.



Broken leg room: Eleanor shows how folding away the seats converts the Xantia's load space for use as a makeshift ambulance

What we need," said Dr Mike Bailey, "is that." He pointed to my Citroën Xantia turbo-diesel Estate parked a few yards away on a muddy track. It was about to become an ambulance.

The patient was my 27-year-old daughter, Eleanor, lying on the edge of a field, swathed in blankets tucked in by a gleaming foil insulation wrap courtesy of the fire brigade. She had been riding her horse when another just ahead had suddenly kicked out, breaking her leg in two places.

Now she was in great pain and losing a lot of blood. It had proved impossible to get the proper ambulance to her over the slippery, pot-holed track. Essex fire brigade was there with a six-wheel drive Steyr-Daimler-Puch rescue vehicle, but that would have provided a very bumpy ride. However, I had managed to reach the site of the accident in the competent Xantia.

The ambulance crew had given Eleanor a painkiller but it was not sufficient, so Dr Bailey was called from Writtle, near Chelmsford. He is a Basics (British Association of Immediate Care Schemes) doctor. Basics is a voluntary organisation comprising GPs and hospital doctors who are on 24-hour standby to

provide back-up for paramedics in particularly difficult situations. They have special training for immediate care work for such things as road — and, in this case, horse — accidents. Their equipment is paid for by local fundraising events.

Dr Bailey arrived in the fire brigade's Steyr and quickly pumped more serious stuff into Eleanor, but she was still in pain; carrying her several hundred yards to the road would be a problem.

At last, though, the morphine started to work, moving her became a possibility — and the Xantia Estate was about to take on a role that could never have been envisaged by its designers. Lowering the car's back seats proved easy enough once the headrests had been lifted out (a fiddly business in those circumstances) and, at 64ins long, 34ins high and 44ins wide, the load space was large and flat enough to take the stretcher with the tailgate open. Dr Bailey kneeled alongside her with a bottle of nitrous oxide/oxygen mixture for added pain relief.

So we set off. Eleanor still awake and murmuring: "No wheelspin starts, please." The Xantia has hydra-pneumatic suspension which is adjustable for height. I raised it to increase ground clearance

by 2ins as we moved forward gingerly, driving as carefully and as smoothly as I have ever done in my life.

A few minutes later we reached the road and she was transferred from the makeshift Citroën ambulance to the grown-up one, and was on her way to hospital at last.

It may not have been my chosen method of test driving a car, but the Sunday afternoon drama did demonstrate an added and unlikely dimension of the versatile Xantia's capabilities: an estate with less sophisticated suspension might

have had a problem clearing some of the humps and bumps on the track.

Raising the Citroën's height is just a matter of pushing a lever positioned between the front seats. It takes only a few seconds for the suspension system of hydraulic fluid and nitrogen gas — which is automatically self-levelling — to pump up to give added ground clearance. In extremis it is possible to raise the suspension by a total of 4ins, but stretched to that height it

is almost rock hard and the car should be driven for only very short distances.

After demonstrating its ambulance capability, the Citroën's other attributes rather paled into insignificance. But it is a comfortable, competent car. Its sophisticated suspension smooths out the bumps very effectively at any speed and it is a fine long-distance cruiser, able to average around 40mpg. There is a nine-model choice of Xantia Estates, including 1.8 and 2.0 litre petrol versions.

The turbodiesel's performance is

a shade leisurely, taking 14 seconds to reach 60mph: I wanted a more responsive engine such as the direct injection turbo-diesels used by VW and Audi. While the general design is thoroughly practical, the position of its pedals is annoying: the brake is lower than the clutch and has little movement. I also felt the pedals were too close together.

The car is good-looking and offers fine value, with prices starting at £14,110 for the 1.8 litre petrol model — which in healthcare economics terms is not at all bad for an ambulance. Thanks, Citroën.

"There in the paper was a Silver Shadow — fitted with a diesel engine"

Simon Grant-Sturgis tells David Thompson about his ultimate in comfortable and stylish towing vehicles

Simon Grant-Sturgis is the owner of a very unusual Rolls-Royce — a diesel-powered Silver Shadow. He got it indirectly through his Alan Peters group, which delivers any car anywhere in the world at the drop of a hat. More often than not though, his work involves domestic deliveries throughout Britain.

After one 400-mile tow-delivery job in a "most uncomfortable" Nissan Patrol, Simon was resting his back in the local pub with a few of his car-mad pals. He declared that what he really wanted for these long towing trips was an oddish Silver Shadow, one of the most comfortable cars he could think of. But to make it

economical he would somehow have to fit a diesel engine to improve on the car's original 10-12mpg.

"I looked in the paper the next day and there she was, a 1970 Silver Shadow — with a diesel engine already fitted. I couldn't believe my luck, so I went to have a look." Fifteen thousand pounds later he parked the gleaming car in his drive.

The diesel conversion was done by Devon-based Samurai Motor Components, who import General Motors' 6.2-litre V8 diesels from the United States. This engine's robustness stems from the basic no-nonsense American design, iron cylinder block and heads and fuss-free hy-

draulic tappets. Power is around 160bhp — somewhat less than the Rolls's original 200 horsepower. This means the diesel works at a relaxed pace and will last a long time.

It also bolts directly to General Motors' GM400 automatic gearbox, which was originally fitted to the Shadow. Other requirements are just a couple of remade engine mounts, a shortened prop-shaft and an altered exhaust.

Like all diesel cars, the brakes need assistance from an external pump and, in this case, a Citroën hydraulic unit gives that assistance. There's no road tax to pay either, as the car is more than 25 years old. Over 25 is also what this Roller now gets in mpg.

Considering the car's age, the panels still have a fit and finish that many a Forth Bridge engineer would be proud of and all the doors still close precisely with a solid "thunk". Better still, there's not a touch of rust anywhere.

Although Simon has sarcastically added a "DIESEL" badge on the boot lid, Rolls-Royce never produced a production diesel engine, though they did experiment with an unreliable rotary diesel engine some years ago. The Shadow itself had an auspicious start when it was launched in 1966. From the start the car was



Simon Grant-Sturgis and his rare Roller — and he doesn't have to pay road tax

criticised for poor handling and performance (though the ride was good) and it became clear that the design favoured the chauffeur-driven owner rather than the owner-driver.

Jumping from a Fiesta into this Roller certainly takes some getting used to, as the extra 4cwt of the Detroit Diesel makes the handling "interesting". Steering along narrow urban streets is like wrestling in a bath of baby oil — it's difficult to get a grip. In some ways it seems, you have to slow down your responses to match the Roller's. One way of achieving this would be to blend into the gentlemen's

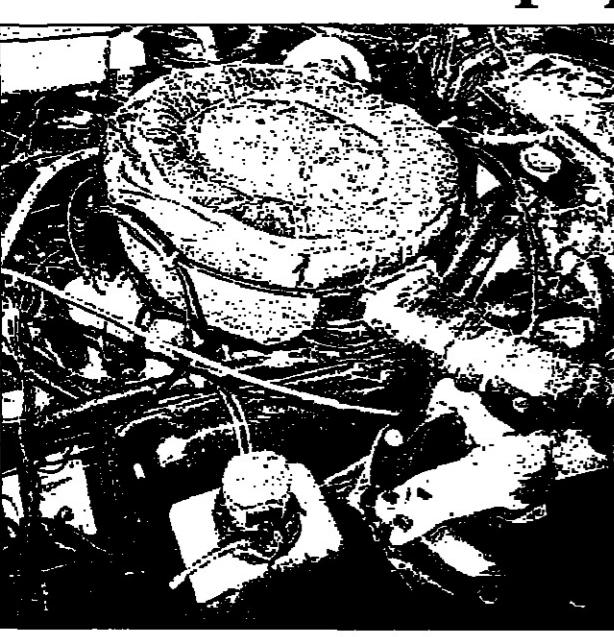
club interior and put away two bottles of claret with a couple of hand-rolled Havanas. But it's probably better just to realise that it's not a sports car, the brakes are good, and anyway you're sitting where the chauffeur usually sits.

Certain social niceties of Rolls ownership became clear during our day's drive. When we stopped for coffee at a smart hotel, the doorman rushed to open our doors while the small Fiat in front of us was ignored. Oncoming drivers realised we were an oddie and treated us with the same reverence they

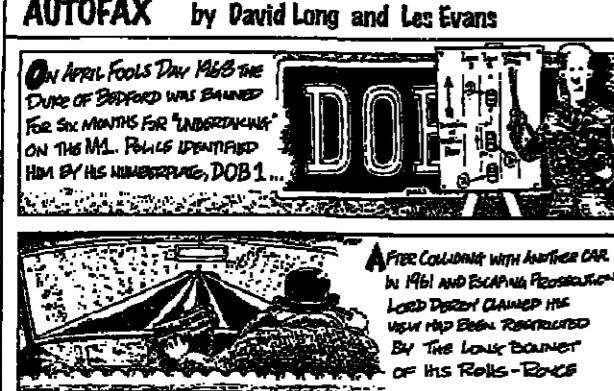
would save for a great-aunt, politely standing aside to let us pass. Best of all, people actually let us out of tight junctions, seemingly admiring the stately poise of the Rolls' rear end.

Yet it is a working car for Simon. A Volvo 164 supplements his workday business trips, but the Silver Shadow completes all his towing jobs and family holidays with ease — a testimony to the strength of the original design and its workmanship.

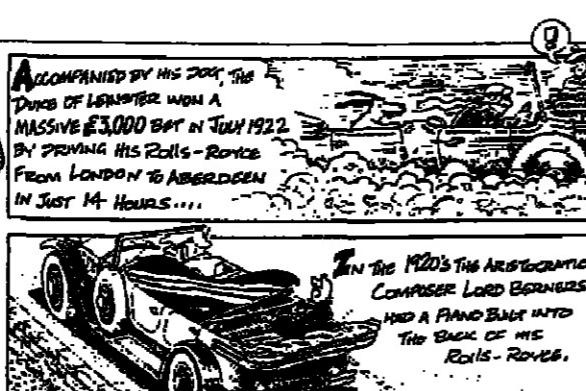
"Has it ever broken down?" I asked Simon. He replied with a wry grin: "Don't be stupid, a Rolls-Royce never breaks down."



Roller diesel: the engine conversion that has doubled the miles per gallon performance of the Silver Shadow



On April Fools Day 1968 the Duke of Bedford was banned for six months for "abusing" the M1. Pauls swapped him by his numberplate DOB1.



After colliding with another car in 1961 and being recovered, Lord Dunsany claimed his car had been converted by the Long Branch of its Rolls-Royce.

Accompanied by his dog, the Duke of Bedford won a massive £3,000 bet in July 1922 by driving his Rolls-Royce from London to Aberdeen in just 14 hours...

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Guy Walters reports from the Camel Trophy, a drama of giant bugs and mounting delays

When the going gets tough... we stop

LEE FARRANT

OUR MAN SOMEWHERE IN BORNEO

■ OFFICIALS are waiting anxiously for contestants in this year's Camel Trophy race, which has proved a spectacular ordeal. Officials from *Car 96* are waiting anxiously for the return of their reporter, Guy Walters, who is following the slow progress of the event.

■ The teams are now five days behind schedule, having covered only 20 miles in nearly a week along some of the toughest jungle tracks in the world through Borneo.

■ Land Rovers are having to be winched across steep ravines and through clinging mud, slowing down their progress to less than a crawl. The convoy was due to reach its final destination in Pontianak today—but hopes were fading fast that it would even get near to the finish line, such was the trauma of the journey.

■ Nevertheless, our fearless reporter managed to file his despatch to *Car 96*. Will Walters make it back to the office on Monday though? Here he tells his story...



Walters: still filing



Britons John Leach, left, and William Tapley were in good spirits, but the deeper into Borneo the convoy travelled the more hellish it became

Until a short while ago, this year's Camel Trophy was in danger of becoming a pleasant experience, reminiscent of a Sunday afternoon's drive through some Home Counties woodland. The weather was fine—hot with a daily downpour—and progress was smooth enough. The spirits of John Leach and William Tapley, the UK's participants, were high, despite the mosquitoes and Leach's viral foot infection. However, the deeper into Borneo the convoy has travelled, the more hellish and muddy the event has become.

Ironically, the troubles started on one of the island's most level roads. As the Greek team rounded a bend at 25mph, a brace of speeding Indonesian motorcyclists decided to introduce themselves to the Discovery's bull-bar. The bar remained undented; the Indonesians had a fractured arm, a broken toe and a broken leg between them.

Neither Leach nor Tapley, who were first on the scene, had seen bone outside skin before.

Luckily for the victims, they had chosen the right vehicle to crash into. The Camel convoy carries two doctors, who have a Defender with enough medical supplies to stock a

small hospital. It was left to Ryk Albertyn to tend to them—a grisly task of administering general anaesthetic on the spot, snapping broken limbs into place and sticking fingers into bloody holes. The local doctor eventually arrived in a clapped-out Jeep, into which he slung the victims. They were to have a literally boneshaking ride back to what passes for a clinic.

It was a busy day for Dr Albertyn. Earlier, he had treated an American journalist who had fallen 20ft down a gully, landing on his face and leaving his nose in the middle of his forehead. He is currently undergoing facial reconstruction in Singapore.

Wednesday saw our arrival in deepest Borneo—the town of Tewah, which felt like Bond Street after a week in the jungle. The locals were astounded and delighted to see 38 Land Rovers drive through their town. The shopkeepers were ecstatic. Every case of Sprite, beer, loaf of bread, bottle of water and packet of cigarettes must have been bought—no doubt at gross mark-ups. The UK and US teams even found time to play volleyball with some teenagers, the inhabitants waved as we left; we could only reflect that they were far

more accommodating to us than we would have been if a convoy of Bornean tribesmen had marched through, say, Uttoxeter. It will become a day momentous in Tewah's history, to us it was like a stop at an unnaturally friendly service station.

But Tewah was the only chink of light in the cloud. A few kilometres outside, the convoy faced the first of another series of gruelling obstacles this time a ford followed by a steep, muddy slope. It took well into the night to overcome and we had to pitch camp on a jungle track no wider than the Land Rovers.

That night, the bugs were at their most gargantuan. Tapley and I were woken in the Discovery at 3am by half-a-dozen examples the size of birds and buzzing like motorbikes at full throttle. We tentatively waged war and sprayed enough neat repellent to all but

melt the dashboard. We thought we had won, but the next morning, one flew out of Tapley's shirt as he put it on. The locals eat them with rice—a sort of bug risotto—but we stuck to our bacon and beans boil-in-a-bag for breakfast.

Then the dashboard was covered in sun and rain to improve surfaces, which cars and build bridges. It entails a lot of hanging around, and many of the support drivers, journalists and marshals merely sit in the heat, flicking flies off their browning legs. Occasionally a journalist will help, but will only regret sacrificing his barely-earned sleep to wallow in glorious mud while it pours.

Many team members are tiring and tempers are shortening. Those once referred to with affection are now referred to in the scatalogical. The German pair hardly speak to each other, and everybody is annoyed by the seeming lack of effort put in by the Swiss and Canary Islanders.

But the real strain has been taken by the vehicles. Despite their hardness, the overweighted Defenders and Discoverys have suffered over the ludicrously jolty

terrain. One Defender has a broken gearbox; one Discovery has a broken half-shaft. Another, which carries the heavy rafting equipment, has two broken half-shafts and a broken steering box. New parts will have to be flown in from Java. The damage to the British car is mild and typical: the right wing and doors have been snatched, the rear bumper was wrenched off ages ago and the since-repaired bull bar was twisted badly.

At the time of writing, last Monday, the convoy is five days behind schedule. Our next town, Tumbang Samba, should have been reached three days ago. At this rate, we shall arrive at Pontianak, our destination 700 kilometres away, on the east coast, by October.

Efforts will have to be trebled and it may soon be necessary to let the journalists take the wheel. I hope my AA membership hasn't expired.

Precautions to avoid a nervous breakdown

Q The family wants a day out at a safari park. But I don't fancy driving through herds of wildebeest and lions. What do you think?

A You could have a lovely time, but there are a few things you should know and do before venturing out into the jungles of darkest Britain.

Q I know... fit bull bars and buy a shotgun or something. I've read your advice before.

A No need to be sarcastic in the surgery. You should give your car a thorough check if you want to avoid the sort of unpleasant experience some people have suffered.

Q Such as what? It's only a day out at a theme park, after all.

A Not for Craig Gordon and Claire Saunders who went to see the Lions of Longleat this week. Their car broke down and then burst into flames while the lions circled their hapless Peugeot 205. Great for the lions waiting for a cooked meal, but not so great for the couple faced between being turned to toast or providing an alternative to a meal of mad cow. Which is why you need advice.

Q What? On how to run very fast when being chased by lions? What help can you offer in situations like that?

A Only the obvious. For instance, make sure your car is not going to break down; check the battery and cooling systems, make sure you have enough petrol when you enter the safari park and ensure the tyres are all in good order. Another thing, retract your radio aerial and make sure nothing is loose around the car. The doctor giggled one day at Woburn watching monkeys systematically strip the vinyl from the roof of a Metro. They just picked up a loose corner and went to work on it.

Q What do we do if everything goes wrong and we are stuck in the car being circled by hungry lions like that poor couple were?

A You could draw lots in the car and push the least favourite member of the family through the window to distract the lions while you all leg it in the opposite direction... although the official advice is to blow your horn to attract the attention of the park wardens, as Craig and Claire did. Actually, feeding the lions with your mother-in-law or a particularly unpleasant and sticky younger member of the family sounds quite attractive now I think about it. It could be quite entertaining and you could always have a personal sticker put in the rear windscreen of your family hatchback: "I fed The Lions of Longleat". Quite individual, don't you think??



Upmarket automobilia: a 1927 supercharged Type-K Mercedes

You know all that rubbish lying about in the garage? Sotheby's might be interested

Jennai Cox on
automobilia sales

double its estimated price. "We have discovered so many treasures in the past," he adds. "Little old ladies may have car parts lying around they do not think are of any value."

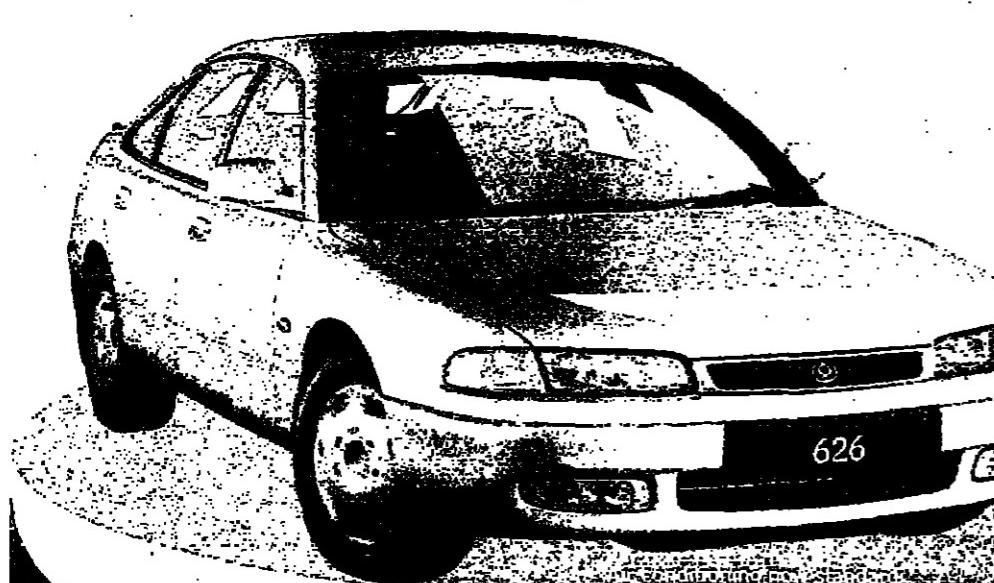
Interest in automobilia has grown since the recession when the classic car market sagged and

collectors turned their attention to accessories. Also fuelling the market are people who clear out their garages and get rid of old vehicle parts at boot sales, not realising the value of what they are selling.

Motor accessories sold by the auction house in the past include a pair of Carless Coalite petrol pump globes, which fetched £1,000 each, and a pre-war Cheltenham petrol can that sold for £185.

The motor museum in Cumbria, which features 150 vehicles and a

re-creation of a 1920s garage, was chosen as the first venue of what the auction house hopes will become a countrywide automobilia roadshow; a second is planned at the motor museum in Coventry later this year. The only cost will be entry to the grounds of the museum: £5.50 for adults and £3.30 for children. Valuations will be given between 10.30 and 4.30. Lakeland Motor Museum 01539 558 509. Find out what was discovered next week in *Car 96*.

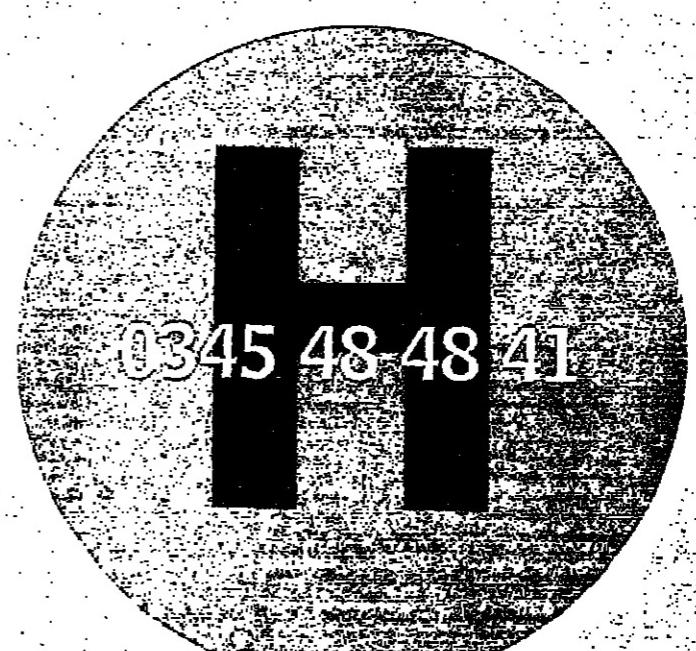


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BOOKS



Whitelaw: sharp observations of Olivier and Beckett

BILLIE WHITELAW... WHO HE?

By Billie Whitelaw

Sceptre, £7.99

THE Coventry-born actress, celebrated for her work with Samuel Beckett, writes her own story. Whitelaw begins with her lower-class roots, remembering parental rows, her evocative years, the early death of her father. She notes key characteristics: her eagerness to please; feeling an outsider as a teenage radio star, then amid the buzzing London theatre scene of the 1950s and 1960s. She interweaves personal experiences, notably a harrowing account of her son's near-death from meningitis, with her professional life which took off with Olivier's new National Theatre.

Whitelaw is not a startling writer, and the opening

chapters are patchy. The prose is almost pedestrian but its virtue is frank simplicity. This autobiography is not shock-a-block with confessions or exposés. But Whitelaw does not shy away from sharp observations, mixed with fondness, about Maggie Smith, Olivier, and the Royal Order of Redmen.

First, there is a black man, Jerome Prophet: "the Prophet of Doom" as he is known in his trade of bare-knuckle fighting; when he cannot make a living with his fists, he is not above thieving. Caught red-handed in town

and attacked, he hides in her house, kills her hen, and still she takes him in, swallowing his story about being a minister ("Mr Prophet," she calls him) wholesale.

As if that is not bad enough, there is a family of Chinamen too — well, they are Japanese, actually, but this is Kansas and it is 1890. They have come to stake a claim on some land, not knowing that as "orientals" their rights are voided. Someone, as Pearl sees it, has to help the Kishimous, and it seems that God has it planned

that it should be her. But the good folk of Liberty are not in the least impressed by her charity, and before long the Royal Order are planning to teach her a lesson.

It seems inconceivable that Pearl should stick by her resolve and let her farm go to ruin and let her boys be adopted by a wealthy aunt who imagines a better life for them in

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

By Thomas Eidson

Michael Joseph, £13.99

Boston. It is Eidson's great achievement to make Pearl's goodness believable, and to convince us that a man scarred by and injured to violence would turn away from it at her bidding. Who would not allow her defender, Prophet, to use his talented fists on a drifter hired to rape her? Pearl Eddy, that's who.

"What can I do to repay you, ma'am?" asks the grateful Hank Meyers, the would-be rapist. "Repay the Lord," says Pearl, and her conviction, and Eidson's behind it, is

strong enough to raise hairs on the back of your neck.

The novel is flawed. It goes on too long, there are one or two many miraculous escapes, and the ending — given Eidson's sharp eye for the daily horrors of frontier life — is a bit too good to be true. But these failings stand light on Eidson's origins as a writer: his prairie tales — the first of which, *St Agnes Stand*, won the W. H. Smith "Thumping Good Read Award" in 1994 — come out of his own family's history on the frontier.

As a boy he grew up listening to his parents' and grandparents' stories of a harder and more vivid life; this, his third novel, maintains the immediacy of a tale told by firelight.

A vivid journey through the imaginative mind of a supreme designer

Blasts from a master

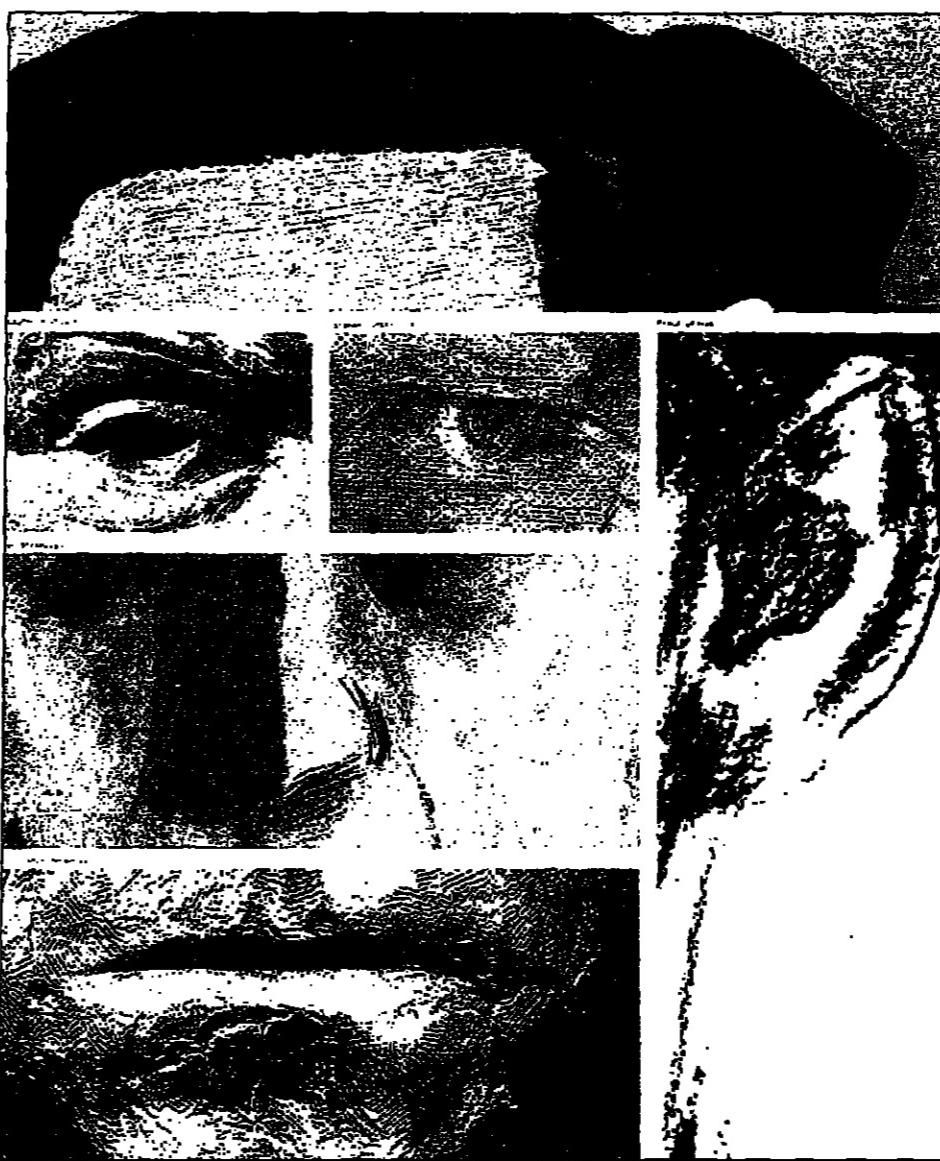
BEWARE WET PAINT:
Designs by Alan Fletcher
By Jeremy Myerson, Rick Poyner and David Gibbs
Phaidon, £39.99

ON THE cover is an anecdote from designer supreme Alan Fletcher: "A marketing manager, resentful of being told by the chairman that he had to see me, made his position absolutely clear. 'I know nothing about design,' he said. 'Furthermore, I don't want anything to do with it.' He was kited out in a chalk-striped brown suit, a distressed-patterned tie, glasses the colour of stewed glue, sat behind a tacky reproduction antique desk and worked in an office to match. I believed him — and left."

Hard luck on that marketing manager and his chairman: they missed out on working with one of the most enlightened and prolific designers of the past 35 years.

This book celebrates those years, with hundreds of design solutions which are witty, seemingly simple and refined. The images are depicted in themed chapters, with commentaries by Jeremy Myerson. There are also four appreciations and an interview with the designer.

DAVID DRIVER



Split heir: poster design for the National Portrait Gallery by Alan Fletcher, composed by arranging details from other portraits to make a picture of the Prince of Wales

On a formic acid trip

EMPIRE OF THE ANTS
By Bernard Werber
Bantam, £9.99

ition, he creates a universe seen from the point of view of a woodland russet ant, or as the 327th male would see it, an inhabitant of one of the biggest, most important cities in the world, with more than 18 million citizens and dominating an allied federation beyond even Captain Kirk's wildest imaginings.

Bernard Werber's real achievement is in conjuring up the challenge of communicating with a genuinely alien intelligence, one that, for instance, might be collectivist rather than individualistic in its sense of identity. He makes the ants' various means of communication — usually by hormonal scents — seem perfectly reasonable, even comprehensible.

With "characters" who "talk" in smells and experience time also in terms of temperature, the key to Werber's book is thinking in more than our usual set of dimensions. To jolt the reader's mind in the right direction he sets a puzzle: "How do you form three equilateral triangles using only six matches?"

This is an off-beat adventure story with an intellectual edge and unquestionably the best book I have read this year.

PETER MILLAR

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOMS IN SOUTHEAST ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE	GREATER LONDON
MADENHEAD	CHELSEA
1 Marlow Road	16-A Primrose Hill
01628 776817	01245 266108

READING

52-54 Kings Road

0181 524 0754

CHISWICK

4 Marlborough Road, W4

0181 994 3443

HERTFORDSHIRE

WEYBURN GARDEN CITY

131 Parkway

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SEVENOAKS

South Park

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Lindes Park Road

01892 525697

SURREY

EPSON

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01732 463895

ESSEX

172 High Street

01784 475902

GODALMING

Oxford Road

01483 416266

SUTTON

42 Cheam Road

0181 642 2784

WEMBLEY

60 Baker Street

01992 857369

WOKING

11 Heathside Road

01483 760731

Sweepings from the shop floor

THE HOUSE OF BLUE LIGHTS
By Joe Roberts
Black Swan, £6.99

A COUPLE OF summers ago Robert packed his rucksack, took a plane to the States and rented a beach house at the tip of the Bolivar Peninsula on the Gulf of Mexico. He was charmed by this sleepy corner of the "Lone Star State" and by the characters he encountered there — including a former stripper who once danced for Elvis, a reclusive Miss Havisham-like spinster and an aged country singer who is haunted by her past. This book is a love letter to those he left behind when his summer in the sun came to an end.

The Devil's Carousel provides a glaring exception to this depressing rule since almost all of its action takes place in a car-assembly plant in central Scotland. This actually makes it every bit as historical a work as a swashbuckler about the Jacobite rebellion, and anyone nostalgic for the long-gone days of wildcat strikes, daft managers ineptly dealing with competition from Japan or the very existence of car-assembly plants in central Scotland can indulge themselves here.

The book consists of various scenes from industrial life, such as the cunning sabotage of a car custom-built for one of the corrupt management: the last and eventful day of the plant's security chief; the sorry fate of the worker driven to mental breakdown by a change from his cherished clock number (200). By far the best of these vignettes describes another sudden descent into personal hell, that of a devout foreman who orders the factory's porn king to clean up his adulterated walls and is made to realise, in retaliation, the exact nature of his beloved daughter's modelling career.

Although this is a slim work, as if to remind us that car plants once employed thousands, it includes a cast about as large as that of *War and Peace*. Adding to the confusion, most members of the cast sport a nickname — the bird-watching "Twificher" Haskins, the alleged scoundrel.

HARRY RITCHIE

patter, odd contractions (such as "t'vee" and "from'rn") and figures of speech. A cough cannot be just a cough; it is a "bronchial outburst"; a wasp is a "striped demon"; the time on an alarm clock supposedly seems as static as "a frozen stellar system".

Four years ago, Torrington won the Whitbread Prize for *Swing Hammer Swing*, the novel he had been toiling at for years and years. *The Devil's Carousel*, by contrast, has the air of a carelessly assembled, Friday-afternoon job, although it does have some fine moments — and at least it is not set on a university campus or in a writer's study.

HARRY RITCHIE

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For further details, please send an A4 stamped, addressed envelope to: The Catherine Cookson Fiction Prize, Transworld Publishers Limited, 61-63 Uxbridge Road, London W3 5SA

THURSDAY

Peter Ackroyd on the sexual enigma of George Bernard Shaw; Derwent May on the journals of Anthony Powell; Ben Macintyre on the first private eye plus Philip Hensher's *Kitchen Venom* reviewed

GOING OUT

CHILDREN

LONDON
Banana Theatre Club
Drama workshop every Saturday morning for four to 12 year-olds.
Jermyn Street Theatre,
Jermyn Street, SW1 (0171-2875). Today 10am-1pm; £5.

Big Jackie & the Beanstalk
Adapted from the fairy tale.
Tricycle Theatre,
Kilburn High Road, NW6 7JR (0171-328 1000). Today 11.30am & 2pm; £3, concs £2.

The Marsh King's Daughter
Adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen tale. For children ages six and over.
Little Angel Marionette Theatre,
Dagnar Passage, Cross Street, NI (0171-261 1787). Today/tomorrow 3pm; £6, concs £5.

National Young Playwright Competition
Awards presentation and readings of the winning plays.
Unicorn Arts Theatre For Children,
Great Newport Street, WC2H 7JB (0171-836 3334). Tomorrow 11am; free.

Stig of the Dump
Clive King's story about the life of a boy from the Stone Age.
Unicorn Arts Theatre For Children,
Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334). Today, 11am & 2.30pm; £5-£7.50, concs available.

The Three Billy Goats Gruff & Others Tales
Children's favourites.
Puppet Theatre Barge,
Little Venice, Blomfield Road, W9 (0171-249 6876). Today/tomorrow 3pm; £5.50, concs £5.

Tower Bridge
The fascinating history of Tower Bridge. Recommended for the whole family.



The Star Trek exhibition at Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry has a model of the USS Enterprise

Tower Bridge
SE1 (0171-403 3761). Mon-Sun 10am-5.15pm; £5, concs £3.50.

REGIONAL BOURNEMOUTH

Beauty & The Beast on Ice
With music and lyrics by David Essex and featuring a host of former World skating champions.

Pavilion Theatre,
Westover Road (01202-297297).

Today/tomorrow 2.30pm & 7.30pm;

£8.50-£16.50.

CHEPSTOW

Dinosaur Roadshow. Interactive entertainment brings

prehistoric times to life in this family exhibition.

Dill Hall,
Lower Church Street (01291-625981). Today/tomorrow 11am-5pm; £1, concs 50p, under-18s & Monmouth Borough Residents free.

COLERAINE

Cairn Kids Youth Theatre: My Fair Lady

The musical version of George Bernard Shaw's classic *Pygmalion* is

recounted on stage by 100 young actors.

Riverside Theatre,
University Of Coleraine (01265-51388). Today 8pm; £5.

MANCHESTER
Star Trek — The Exhibition
Join fellow trekkies in the full-size set of the Star Trek transporter room and get beamed away by the exhibits which include a model of the USS Enterprise.

Museum of Science & Industry,
Liverpool Road (0161-832 2244).

Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; £5, concs £3. Under 5's free.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Science Factory

Science centre for children.

Discovery Museum,

Blandford Square (0191-2326789).

Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; free.

POP

LONDON
Blaggers ITA: Near Death Experience
Potatchi Punk with a political edge.
Underworld, World's End,
Camden High Street, NW1 (0171-482 1932). Today 7.30pm; £5.

The Brotherhood of Man
Memorable sugar-sweet pop classics.
The Grand,
Clapham Junction, SW11 (0171-738 9000). Today 8pm; £7.

Wilko Johnson Band
The former Feelgood guitar man.
The Standard,
Blackhorse Lane, E17 (0181-523 0055). Today 8pm; £5.

Barry Manilow
Cabaret schmaltz at its finest.
Wembley Arena,
Empire Way (0181-900 1234). Today/tomorrow 6.30pm; £12.50-£25.

New Model Army, Det-Ri-Mental
Folk and punk groups play a



Wembley: Barry Manilow

GLASGOW
Longpigs
See Critic's Choice.
King Tut's Wah Wah Hut,
Glasgow (0141-221 5279). tomorrow.

Alanis Morissette, Honeycrack
Young Brit Awards winner whose ethereal voice oozes angst.
Barrowland,
Galloway (0141-552 4601). Today 7pm; phone for availability.

HULL

Shed Seven

York group whose credible indie sound stays outside of the Britpop arena while still scooping hits.

The Tower,
Anlaby Road (01482-323121). Tomorrow 8pm; £7.

ILFORD

The Wildhearts, Blameless

The boys return with more heavy metal mania.
Island Iford,
High Road (0181-514 4400). Tomorrow 8pm; £9.

MANCHESTER

Lefield

Bizarre dance troupe.
Manchester Academy,
Oxford Road (0161-275 2930). Today 9pm; £12.50.

JAZZ

LONDON

Doug Carn

Spacey 1970s soul-jazz pianist.
Jazz Cafe,
Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Today 7pm; £12, adv £10.

James Taylor Quartet

Acid Jazz masters in residence.
Jazz Cafe,
Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow 7pm; phone for availability.

HULL

Helen Watson Band

See Farham.
Blue Lamp,
Norfolk Street (01482-329833). Tomorrow 8pm; £6.

FAREHAM

Helen Watson Band

New-blues diva.
Astrofro Arts Centre,
Osborne Road (01329-235161). Today 8pm; £6, concs £5.

EDINBURGH

Dave Milligan Trio

Top post-bop pianist.
Henry's Cellar Bar,
Morrison Street (0131-221 1288). Tomorrow 8pm; free.

MANCHESTER

Helen Watson Band

Odes by Blow and Purcell, with Britten's Cantata Miserere.
Bath Abbey,
(01255-48831). Today 7.30pm; £7, concs £6.

MANCHESTER

Halle Bruggen

Mozart's Symphony No 41 and Haydn's No 104.
Free Trade Hall,
Peter Street (0161-834 1712). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £8.50-£11.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra/Kreisberg

Schumann's Piano Concerto and Berlioz's Symphonie fantastique.
City Hall,
(0191-261 2606). Tomorrow 3pm; £6-£17.50.

CLASSICAL

LONDON

Alasdair Cameron

Piano recital of Schubert, Liszt and Beethoven's last sonata.

St John's,

Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £6 & £10.

Gershwin & Co

Songs by Gershwin and others from soprano Sarah Pool and ensemble.

Purcell Room,

South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today 7.30pm; £6-£10.

GEORGE MELLY

Ignore the dismal adaptation of his memoir *Owning Up*. As a performer he remains in a louche class of his own, supported by the ever-faithful trumpeter John Chilton and his Feetwarmers. Melly must have performed the low-down *Frankie and Johnny* a million times by now, but his vaudeville career never fails to raise a smile.

Clive Davis

Pizza on the Park,
Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5550). Tonight 9.15pm and 11.15pm; £18. adv £16.

Steps Ahead

Mike Manieri's dancefloor fusion plus singer Sarah Jane Morris.

Ronnie Scott's,

Friars Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Today 9pm; £12, mews £7.

LSO/Tilson Thomas

Four Stravinsky works

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Please send me one copy of the Fodor's/Kodak Guide to Shooting Great Travel Pictures. I attach four tokens and a cheque for £15.00 to cover postage and packaging payable to The Times FT352. Send this form to: The Times/Fodor's Book Offer, PO Box 45, Broadcasters, Kent CT10 1UD. All orders for the guide must be received by Tuesday April 30. Offer subject to availability. The Times reserves the right to substitute the guide for another of equal value.

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It would help us if you answered these four questions:

1. Which of the age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

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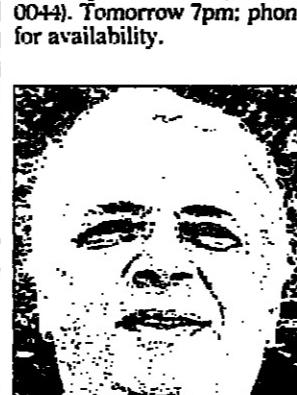
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[] 4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly? (2-4 copies a month?)
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George Melly performs

Magnificent Master Drummers of Africa

Thrilling drum sextet from all corners of Africa.

Parcel Room,

South Bank, SE

GOING OUT

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

LONDON
After the Flood
Multi-media and photography by RCA graduates.
Royal College of Art,
Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-584 5020).
Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm; free.

Gustave Caillebotte: The Unknown Impressionist
An illuminating range of paintings.
Royal Academy of Arts,
Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-439 7438). Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm;
£4.50, concs £3.50.

Desert
Empty spaces explored in multi-media show including Knut Maron.
South London Art Gallery,
Peckham Road, SE5 (0171-703 6120).
Today/tomorrow 2pm-6pm; free.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

BLOOD, SEA AND ICE
This may be the beginning of the Nelson decade at the National Maritime Museum. But clearly the museum does not want to forget other great British seafarers, and the present exhibition pays tribute to three more, explorers all: Sir Francis Drake, Captain James Cook and Sir John Franklin. The show actually commemorates the 400th anniversary of Drake's death, but it probably seemed politic to throw in the other two. Still, the most exciting and evocative things are in Drake's section.
John Russell Taylor
National Maritime Museum,
Greenwich, London SE10 (0181-858 4422). Today 10am-6pm, tomorrow 2pm-6pm; £5.50, concs £4.50.

Spellbound: Art & Film
The talents of artists and directors.
Howard Gallery,
Belvedere Road, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm; £5, concs £3.50.

Rachel Whiteread
Long-awaited new prints from the controversial Turner Prize winner.
Karsten Schubert.

Foley Street, W1 (0171-631 0031/580 3546). Today 10am-3pm; free.

REGIONAL

DURHAM
Flesh & Spirit Velasquez & Painters in 17th Century Madrid
Work from the Golden Age of Spanish painting.
Bowes Museum,
(01633 690066). Today 10am-5pm, tomorrow 2pm-5pm; phone for prices.

BIRMINGHAM
George Rodger: A Photographic Journey
Images from the award-winning photojournalist.
The Gas Hall,
Chamberlain Square (0121-235 1966). Today 10am-5pm, tomorrow 12.30pm-5pm;
£2.50, concs £1.50.

LEEDS
Jasper Johns: The Sculptures
Sculptures by the pop artist.
Henry Moore Institute,
The Headrow (0113-246 7467). Today 10am-5.30pm; free.

LIVERPOOL
Home and Away: Internationalism and British Art 1900-1990
Exploration of boundaries and geographies.
Tate Gallery Liverpool,
Albert Dock (0151-709 3223). Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm; free.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
George Baselitz
Paintings by the master of Neo-Expressionism.
Gallery,
University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Sandyford Road (0191-227 4424). Today 10am-4pm; free.

WAKEFIELD
Max Ernst
Featuring sculpture and drawings by the influential Surrealist.
Yorkshire Sculpture Park,
Bretton Hall (01924 820302). Today/tomorrow 10am-4pm; free.



Doorway to a Kondofan House, 1949, from photojournalist George Rodger's exhibition

FILM

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol *) on release across the country

CRITIC'S CHOICE

NELLY & MONSIEUR ARNAUD (PG)

Claude Sautet's subtle and tender study of an older man and a younger woman who edge towards intimacy. He (Michel Serrault) is a retired colonial judge, she (Emmanuelle Béart) is a 25-year-old brimming with unfulfilled desires. There is no sex, just hesitations and a secret caress wonderfully conveyed, and a vibrant director on top form.

Geoff Brown
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720); *Gate Notting Hill* (0171-721 4043); *Richmond* (0181-332 0030); *Ritzy* (0171-731 2121); *Screen on the Hill* (0171-435 3366).

♦ Before and After (12)
Glim family drama with Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson as parents of a teenager accused of murder. Director, Barbet Schroeder. *Odeon: Kensington* (01426-914 666), *Leicester Square* (01426-915 083), *West End* (0171-586 3057).

Smoke (15)
Criss-crossing lives in Brooklyn. Agreeable piece by Paul Auster, with Harvey Keitel. Director, Wayne Wang.

Everyman (0171-435 1525); *Lumière* (0171-836 0691); *MGM: Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636); *Renoir* (0171-837 8402); *Richmond* (0181-332 0030); *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121); *UCI Whiteleys* (0171-792 3322).



Michel Serrault on screen

Avenue (0171-836 6279); *Trocadero* (0171-434 0031); *Notting Hill Corner* (0171-727 6705); *Odeon: Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098); *Plaza* (0800-888 997); *Rio* (0171-254 6677); *Ritzy* (0171-731 2121); *Screen: Baker Street* (0171-925 2772); *Screen/Green* (0171-792 3322); *Warner West End* (0171-437 4343).

Unzipped (15)
Exuberant fashion documentary about designer Isaac Mizrahi as he creates a new collection. Director, Douglas Keeve.

MGM: Chelsea (0171-352 5096); *Haymarket* (0171-839 1527); *Tottenham Court Road* (0171-636 6149); *Warner* (0171-370 2636), *Shaftesbury*

Avenue

Twelve Monkeys (15)
Unwieldy extravaganza from former Monty Python collaborator Terry Gilliam, with Bruce Willis as the shaven-headed time-traveller seeking the source of a virus. With Madeleine Stowe and Brad Pitt. *Barbican* (0171-638 8891); *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323); *MGM: Baker Street* (0171-935 9772); *Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636); *Shaftesbury*

♦ Mighty Aphrodite (15)
Woody Allen searches for his talented adopted son's natural mother and finds a taut. Engaging variation on old themes, with Oscar-winner Mira Sorvino. *Barbican* (0171-638 8891); *Chelsea* (0171-351 3742); *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323); *Odeon: Haymarket* (0126 915353); *Kensington* (0126 914666); *Swiss Cottage* (0126 914098); *Phoenix* (0181-883 2233); *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121); *Screen: Baker Street* (0171-925 2772); *Screen/Green* (0171-792 3322); *Warner West End* (0171-437 4343).

Small Faces (18)
Gillies and Billy Mackinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood among teenage gang warfare in the late 1960s, largely cast with local talent. *MGM: Chelsea* (0171-352 5096); *Haymarket* (0171-839 1527); *Tottenham Court Road* (0171-636 6149); *Warner* (0171-370 2636), *Shaftesbury*

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★

DEAN: The Very Rev Christopher Lewis

ARCHITECTURE: Auster building, a strange mixture of styles ranging from Early English to Victorian. ★★★

SERMON: A reflection on whether there was any point to anything, including the Resurrection. ★★★

MUSIC: Remarkable chants and hymns from a mixed choir, with some of the most beautiful girls' voices I've heard in church. ★★★★

LITURGY: Pleasant feeling of floating freely through familiar forms. ★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: One of the country's best cathedral restaurants is open during the day. ★★★★

SPIRITAL HIGH: Preferable to drink or drugs. ★★★★

CURRENT

♦ Broken Arrow (15)

John Travolta steals

nuclear weapons; Christian Slater tries to get them back. Bumptious and brainless action movie, directed by John Woo.

MGM: Baker Street (0171-935 9772); *Chelsea* (0171-351 3742); *Odeon: Kensington* (0126 914666), *Marble Arch* (0126 914509); *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098); *West End* (0126 914574); *UCI Whiteleys* (0171-792 3322).

FAIRS

■ LONDON

Chelsea Arts Fair

Over 35 exhibitors sell

their wares, ranging from the

traditional and the

classical to contemporary

paintings and sculptures.

Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, SW3 (0171-352 3619). Today 11am-6pm, Tomorrow 11am-5pm; £3.

POETRY

■ LONDON

Galaxy of Poets from

Pakistan.

Led by Qasim Pirzada.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today 7.45pm; £8-12, concs £4.

COMEDY

■ LONDON

Banana Cabaret

With Sean Meo, Woody

Bob Muddy, Simon Fox, Noel

Jones.

The Bedford, Bedford Hill, SW12 (0181-673 1756). Today 9pm; £6,

concs £4.

EDINBURGH

Barrow-in-Furness

The First Word-of-Mouth

Festival. American Poets and

Publishing (today 10am;

£1) and Sarah Miller

performing Eve's Diary

with Henry Normal (today

7.30pm; £5). The Giant

Book of Barrow is launched

(today 2pm, free).

Forum 28, Duke Street (01229 820 000).

RELIGION

■ REGIONAL

EDINBURGH

Serving Suggestions

Festival of Moving Image Media.

Filmhouse, Lothian Road (0131-556 2044). Today/tomorrow, phone for details; £2-£4.

EDINBURGH

Walking the edge — holding the centre

The Bishop of Southwark,

the Rt Rev Roy Williamson,

is inviting parishioners to

join him for part of his 110-mile walk through the 77

parishes on or near the

boundary of his Diocese.

This weekend he will reach

Felbridge near East

Grinstead and will then turn

westward to Charlwood,

near Gatwick, then north

through Tadworth and the

Kingsland area (April 25)

before following the

Thames eastwards and

returning to Southwark on

April 26.

Further information:

Patrick Olivier, 0171-403 8686

WALLENBERG SABBATH

Synagogues of all

denominations are

designating today,

Saturday, which falls between

Holocaust Memorial Day

and Israel's Independence Day, as Wallenberg

Sabbath. Raoul Wallenberg

was the Swedish diplomat

who saved the lives of

TRAVEL

Palm Springs: the Hollywood brat packs have gone, Peter Hughes says. The new obsession is 'life extension'

Come back Errol Flynn, all is forgiven

At Palm Springs airport the first thing you see is a rank of wheelchairs at the foot of the aircraft steps. Each has an attendant in a white shirt and topee. The second thing is a bronze bust of Ronald Reagan on sale in a showcase. The third — and we have reached the passenger terminal now — is a golf shop beside an open-air putting green, with real grass. Health, Hollywood and golf: Palm Springs has slipped you three of its icons before you've even recovered your suitcase.

The town lies quartered like tiles on the floor of a wide desert valley 107 miles southeast of Los Angeles. Half of it is owned by the Cahuilla Native Americans who, in the 1870s, were handed huge tracts of desert by the US Government as part of the deal to build a railroad.

What began as a patronising offer, considering the Cahuillas thought they owned the land already, turned out to be one of the great windfalls of history. One century's desert is another's real estate, and the Palm Springs Cahuillas, whose rents come tax-free, are now the richest Native Americans in the US. Of the 700 known millionaires in the Coachella Valley, a third are said to be Native Americans.

Palm Springs hasn't quite discovered the secret of eternal old age but it's working on it. Even the desert tours are preoccupied with the medicinal uses the Cahuillas found for every root and leaf.

The buildings along Palm Canyon Drive look like the first ones put up in the 1930s which, in turn, were modelled on the Spanish-Californian style of the 19th century.

In winter — if that is the word in 80F — the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies plays a six-month season at the Plaza Theatre with a chorus line of "showgirls" aged between 50 and 80. Clinics of one description or another, from the Betty Ford Center at Rancho Mirage to the hospital wing donated by Frank Sinatra, fill pages of the phone book, reaching an apothecary in the Palm Springs Life Extension Institute.

In this town, no building may be taller than a palm tree, and none is so vulgar as a motel; there are only hotels, inns or lodges. Water in the valley is so bountiful that in summer, when the temperature reaches 120F, you come within a whisker of outdoor air conditioning: "misters" play fine spray over the side-walks to cool pedestrians.

The sun shines every day, the air is Kodak clear, and the big, crinkled mountains loll around the edge of town as brown and dry as old pumice.

FACT FILE

- American Airlines (0345 789789) flies daily to Palm Springs from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Birmingham. Return fares start at £460.
- American Airlines (0181 577 9966) offers fly-drive packages from £375 plus taxes. Minimum seven days.
- At Palm Springs, temperatures between June and September can be furnace-like, though there is little humidity. It has about 3in of rain a year. The film festival is in early January.
- A trip into the hills and canyons is a must. *Star Wars* and *Planets of the Apes* are among the films shot here. Desert Adventures of Palm Springs (619 864 6520) runs a variety of 4x4 tours in flame-red Jeeps. You feel the guides belong to the West: they are both knowledgeable and laconic — "In these parts everything bites, sticks, stinks or slings."
- The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway ascends a sheer ravine in the valley west to the 8,500ft summit of Mount Jacinto. (It was built, in 1963, by a company based in Switzerland called Roll, which, deliciously, makes it the Swiss Roll company.) The area has been a film location for *Colombia* and *Mission Impossible*. At the top there are hiking trails in the State Park and, in winter, cross-country skiing.
- For general information, contact Palm Springs Tourism in London (0171 978 5233).

The San Bernardino Fault runs along one valley wall, but without knowing what I was looking for I couldn't see it. I felt it. Or rather I felt the instability that lies beneath it. On my first night there was a small earth tremor, but then Palm Springs has earth tremors like Ireland has showers.

There is a seismograph in the Desert Museum which people consult as casually as they would a barometer in Ballyshannon. Little else than nature shakes the place these days. In the 1930s and 1940s things were different. Clark Gable and Carole Lombard honeymooned at the Ingleside Inn and Errol Flynn built a hotel, which burnt down, where he and his cronies could roister uninterrupted.

The actors Ralph Bellamy and Charlie Farrell opened the Racquet Club after the Desert Inn threw them out for keep-



Sounding a chord from Palm Springs's starry past is Liberace's pool in the shape of a grand piano. The closest you come to the old voluptuousness is on an \$11 tour of celebrities' homes



The buzz of the tennis court has been replaced by the bromide of the golf course

ity by having Celebrity Tour buses routed past your wall, you can always give an enclosure to the Living Desert Wildlife Park. Instead of the house where Spencer Tracy lived, there is the Hutchins Pond, home to the desert pupfish and given in memory of one Harriet Hutchins. The black vulture lives in a cage commemorating E.J. Spielman: the acorn woodpecker owes its home to Shewa Harangozo, and the late Anna Anderson Wright would be proud to think that her name is attached in perpetuity to Coyote Grotto.

At least the inhabitants of the Living Desert and their benefactors are not subject to the caprice of fashion in the same way that Hollywood veterans are. Spielman and the black vulture would seem to have a slightly more secure toehold on eternity than Gene Autry, the octogenarian singing cowboy.

The Western-style Autry Hotel at the end of Palm Canyon Drive, which the star bought in 1964, has just been reopened as the Givency Hotel and Spa. It is modelled on the Givency spa at Versailles, with a French chef, formal gardens, balustrades and fragrances. Goodbye wagon-wheel bar tables, hello aromatherapy.

Palm Springs' "life extension" no longer lies in being a sort of sandpit where the Hollywood brat pack played. These days the stars come from Michelin.

PETER HUGHES

• The author was a guest of Palm Springs and American Airlines.

Dream with the stars

ARTISTS, driven out by the movie colony 60 years ago, are returning to Palm Springs for the same reasons that they came in the first place: the light, the heat, the desert and the isolation.

They are staying in the same bungalows and rooms that Greta Garbo or Clark Gable once relaxed in. Investment has poured into hideaway hotels that had fallen into decline in the past few years.

The Korakia, built in 1924 and where Winston Churchill painted in an upstairs art studio, re-opened as a 12-roomed hotel three years ago.

Four-poster feather beds, beamed ceilings and oriental rugs are among its features.

Its owner, Doug Smith, an architect who once ran a cafe on the Greek island of Spetses, is host to the arts, music and film people.

In the town centre, within walking distance of the small hotels, there are 65 restaurants, compared with 30 five years ago. In 1990 there was only one cafe with tables outside; now there are more than 20.

"We are losing a lot of commercial properties and adding more entertainment-type properties," says Bob Weithorn, manager of the Orchard Tree Inn. "Palm Springs is getting back to the way it was."

The Orchard Tree is a small hotel on which \$1 million (about £650,000) has been spent in

recent years but which has retained its 1934 tile-roofed Spanish bungalows. Tall palms fringe the pool, once the hangout of Martin, Holden and Troy Donahue, and now the setting for fashion photographic sessions.

At the Estrella Inn (Gable, Carole Lombard, Roosevelt) on the same road, a further \$1 million has been spent. Octagonal wooden studios with fireplaces are among the 74 rooms. Outside, there are 40 fruit trees, a rose garden and three pools.

Most hotels are set in lush sub-tropical grounds in the same neighbourhood, nestled against the base of the Jacinto but within a five-minute stroll to the main Palm Canyon Drive and the town centre.

Mostly they offer breakfast only, with guests walking to restaurants or cooking for themselves — most rooms have kitchen facilities with teabags for guests.

STEVE KEENAN

• The author was a guest of Palm Springs and TWA (0171 432 0707), which flies from June-October. The Orchard Tree charges \$33-\$25 (£22-£18) per room from June-October, \$65-\$190 in winter. The Estrella, \$65-\$165 in July-August and \$75-\$165 at other times (from \$93 to the end of April). The Korakia charges from \$52-\$115 year-round. Hotel tax is 10.1 per cent on top.



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TRAVEL

Portugal: exploring charming Lisbon and the surrounding countryside, trips for non-golfers and..

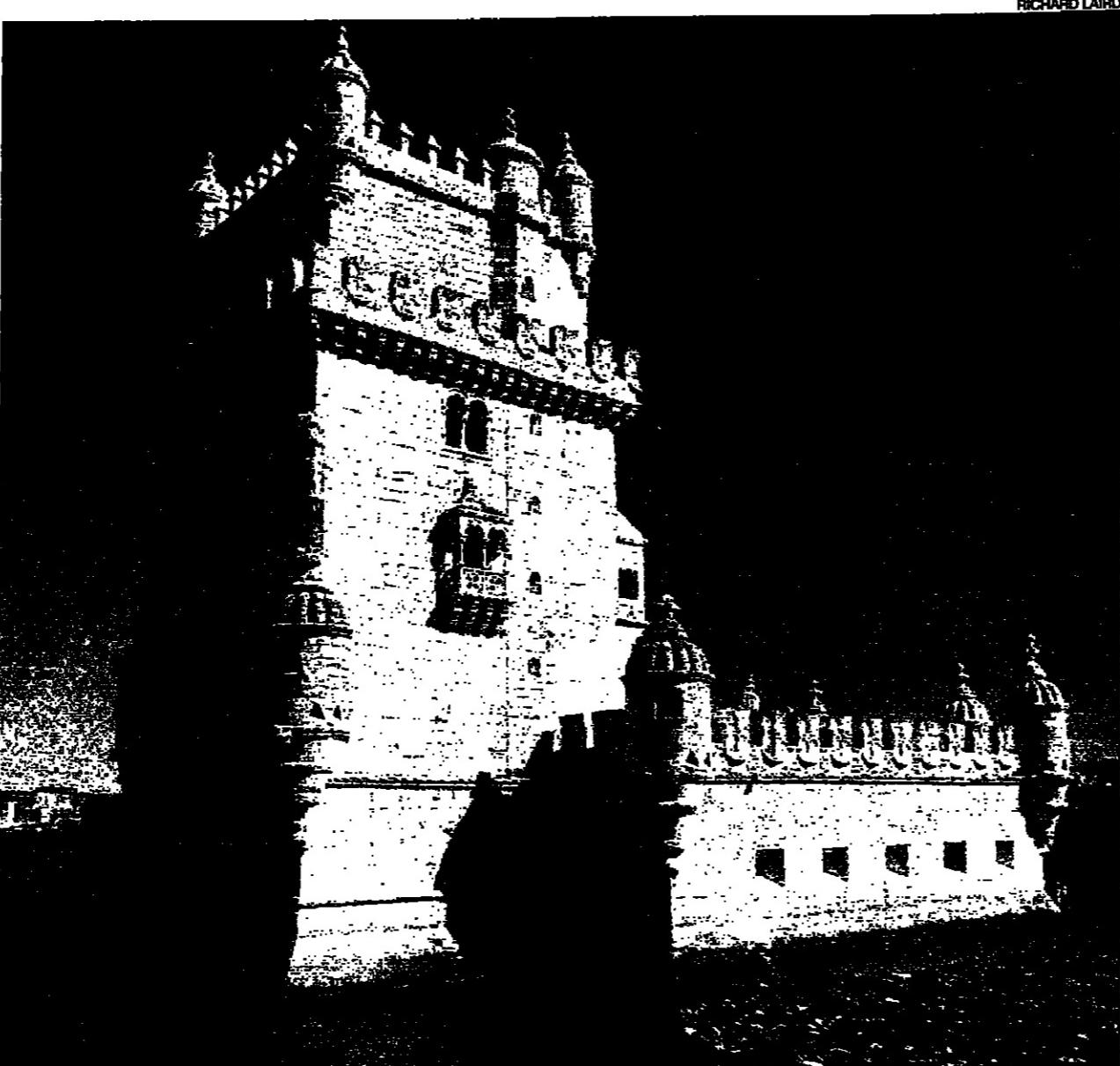
Fading glories of a busy port

When they ask for your papers at Portuguese ports of entry, don't make the mistake of handing over your passport — it's your golfer's handicap certificate they're after. It's a popular joke, and understandable.

But whatever else the country's golfing boom of the past 20 years has achieved — there are 17 courses on the Algarve coast alone — it has done little for Portugal's hinterland and the capital, Lisbon, except to leave them ripe for discovery.

Some tour operators are looking beyond Portugal's fairways. "Rather like the costas in Spain, many people assume Portugal is the Algarve," says Patrick Fleming, of the Magic of Portugal. "We emphasise rural tourism in little-known areas such as the Alentejo ('Beyond the Tagus')."

Meanwhile, the expanding range of more than 60 *pousadas* — the accommodation in historic buildings such as the 15th-century Convent of Loios in Evora — looks set to emulate the success of Spain's



The Belem Tower fortress beside the Tagus, from which Vasco da Gama is said to have sailed on his voyages of discovery

explore, is tended by an aged crane who will grant entry only to visitors who can convince her they are English.

Elsewhere, faded *azulejos*, the patterned ceramic tiles that are Lisbon's hallmark, and

impressive dissident graffiti featuring flocks of obedient sheep — railing against bourgeois conformity, I suspect — have turned walls throughout the city into delightful, if incongruous, canvases.

Ancient yellow trams clatter down cobbled streets to the River Tagus. Close to it, at the Ribeira dawn market, the sounds are of old mincing machines shredding cabbages for *caldo verde*, the much-loved soup, and of flower arrangers stabbing carnation stems into blocks of oasis. Clubbers from dives in the Bairro Alto (upper town) district wash and brush-up here at the only bar serving hot chocolate at this time of the morning, while stallholders doze on their stools.

And the profusion of flowers, vegetables and fish are piles of dried discs of salted codfish or *bacalhau*, the national dish. "The Portuguese are proud of their sea-faring roots," said Carlos, our bus driver. "We have eaten *bacalhau* ever since the pioneer sailors ate it in the age of discovery." Which struck me as akin to the British creating a national cuisine around hardtack and weevils.

For better ways of appreciating Portugal's maritime tradition, visitors head for the Lisbon suburb of Belem. Here,

inevitable run-in with *bacalhau*.

Our party left Lisbon by the great suspension bridge across the Tagus, drove past the huge, Rio-like statue of Christ and headed southeast into the Alentejo, a vast plain with its own awesome character. Bare-trunked cork trees had been harvested of their bark. Piles of boulders punctuate the wheat fields like islands; on each one a single olive tree had sprouted.

We explored the region from our base at the Hotel Convento de São Paulo, a cloistered monastery in which the monks' cells have been converted into charming rooms.

In the town of Evora, farmers in hard-hinned stetsons and *peitos*, the local hurry-jackets, had gathered in the main square, the Praça do Giraldo, to do business.

Inside the São Francisco church I found the Chapel of Bones, a macabre vault neatly patterned with the mortal remains of some 5,000 monks. "We these bones await your bones," read the inscription.

It was not welcoming, but it was yet more evidence that there is plenty of Portugal to discover beyond the fairways.

For better ways of appreciating Portugal's maritime tradition, visitors head for the Lisbon suburb of Belem. Here,

HOW TO GET TO LISBON AND WHERE TO STAY

- The Magic of Portugal (reservations 01233 211619), offers villa and hotel holidays, city breaks, stays in historic *pousadas* and self-drive holidays.
- The author stayed in Lisbon at the Hotel Da Lapa, a five-star hotel built around an old palace in the city's diplomatic quarter. The Magic of Portugal offers a week's two-centre holiday, based on the hotels Da Lapa and Quinta do Lago in the Algarve, starting at £908 per person in July, including flights, transfers and four days' car hire. A week's holiday with three nights at a three-star hotel in Lisbon and four nights at the Hotel Convento de São Paulo, with flights and three days' car hire, starts at £539.
- TAP Air Portugal (0171-828 0262) flies three times daily to Lisbon from London Heathrow. For much of May, subject to availability, midweek returns start at £97, rising to about £200 in June.
- Lisbon's main sights are open every day except Monday. The Port Wine Institute is at Rua de São Pedro de Alcântara 45, and open daily 10am-10pm, except Sunday.
- Recommended for memorable evening drinks is Pavilhão Chines Bar at Rue Dom Pedro V 89, Lisbon.
- Portugal is generally warm from April to October, although the Alentejo, southeast of Lisbon, can become uncomfortably hot in July and August.
- Guide books: *The Rough Guide*, £9.99. *Cadogan Guide*, £14.99.
- For further travel information call The Portuguese Tourist Office in London on 0171-494 1441.

JEREMY SEAL
● The author was a guest of The Magic of Portugal.

Feast day in the forest

Golf is undoubtedly the main attraction of the Algarve — but there are so many other activities on offer that non-golfers certainly won't get bored.

The Quinta do Lago hotel is renowned for its golf courses (Quinta do Lago, Pinheiros Altos and San Lorenzo), as well as tennis, horse-riding, cycling, an excellent health club and bird-watching, while the neighbouring water sports centre provides scuba-diving, parasailing, water-skiing, jet-skiing and fishing.

The Ria Formosa is a prime site for birdwatchers, but the acres of barren land are possibly best left to the real aficionados. Nonetheless, the information centre at the park is well worth a visit, with its displays of local flora and fauna and an excellent aquarium.

The local fishing villages should be visited, with Olhão particularly worthy of a mention for its spotless fish market. Lunch around the coast is both cheap (less than £5) and good if you keep to the fish, particularly the sardines. If you want a real treat, one of the best places for lunch is Gigi's.

A five-minute walk towards the sea, across a rickety bridge from the hotel, Gigi's serves outstanding seafood. It is expensive for the region, but, with wine, the bill is unlikely to exceed £20 a head.

For those wishing to see more of the Portuguese cul-

FACT FILE

■ As part of the British Airways Holidays golf programme, three and seven-night special programmes are offered to the Hotel Quinta do Lago. Prices start from £639 for three nights and £898 for seven, and include return flights, B&B, a car and one round of golf (18 holes) per night's stay at the following courses: Quinta do Lago, Pinheiros Altos, Vila Sol or Vilamoura 1,2,3. Inquiries and reservations: 01293 723131.

■ The five-star Hotel Quinta do Lago is set on a pine-covered hill overlooking the sea. A footbridge leads to miles of beach, with the Ria Formosa bird sanctuary also close at hand. The hotel is only a short drive from the area's golf course and the charming historic villages of Faro, Almancil and Olhão. Cost per person sharing a double room starts from £80. The hotel offers a series of four and seven-night golf instruction programmes for beginners through to advanced players. Inquiries and reservations through Orient-Express Hotels: 0181-568 8366.

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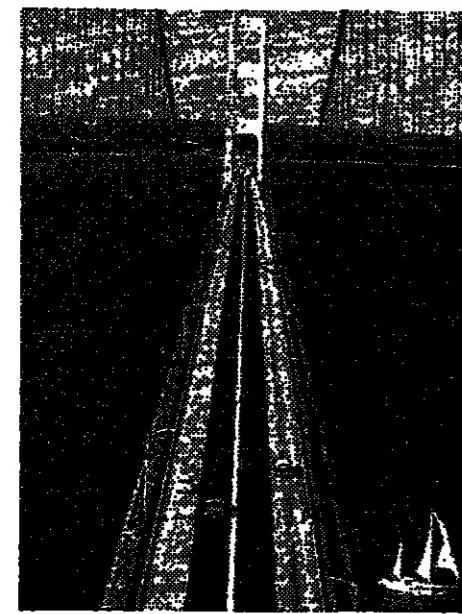
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ast day in
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WEEKEND SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

19

TRAVEL

... the benefits of the Algarve out of season; plus taking the rough with the smooth greens at Estoril

A country all to ourselves

The car bounced along the rough road. There was no house in sight, no signpost, no one to ask the way. "I'm telling you, this is wrong," my wife said in a tone that left no doubt that I, who was navigating, had better get us out of this mess. The sun was hot. The road wound nowhere.

Who said the Algarve was horribly overdeveloped? Just when you needed directions from a friendly tourist office, or an old English pub, or a golf club crowded with Brits, all there was was a stony track. Just keep going." I said. The gears crunched.

Then the road suddenly improved, joining a metalled one. We sped up and turned a corner. In front of us the sea sparkled and the sands of Praia da Amoreira, almost empty, stretched into the distance. A small restaurant, Paraíso do Mar (Sea Paradise), with white tables and sun umbrellas, had several tables free. I was saved.

The fried cuttlefish (1,000 escudos or £4.40), was superb; the prawns, grilled mackerel and sardines fresh and cheap; the wine only 600 escudos (£2.70). Under a powder-blue October sky with a temperature of about 80F, and an afternoon stretching ahead, the cold, leaden weather back home seemed much more than a two-hour flight away.

Early autumn is a good time to visit the Algarve. For some decades this southern state of Portugal has cashed in on its guaranteed sun, good beaches and, now, excellent golfing facilities. During the summer months, holidaymakers are packed in like *sardinhas*, but in October it is quieter and the weather is still reliable.

"The good thing about the Algarve," said a holiday rep in an unguarded moment — probably after one too many almond liqueurs — "is that there's nothing to see, so you can completely relax." This unfaltering summary contains some truth. But there are delightful places if you look.

One of them was our villa, not far from Carvoeiro, on the

FACT FILE

- The author stayed at the five-star Quinta 'de Rey villa near Carvoeiro. One week's self-catering costs from £449 per person based on six sharing in spring and autumn. Price includes flights (Gatwick), maid or cleaning service and hire car with unlimited mileage. Additional weeks from £169 per person based on four sharing start at £505 per person. Reservations: Meon Villas (01730 230370).
- Currency is escudos 226 to the £.
- Guidebook: *Get to Know the Algarve by Len Port* (VIP, £9.95).

south coast, about midway between Faro, the airport, and the western tip, Quinta 'de Rey (King's Farm) is a modern copy of an old Portuguese farmhouse — spacious and tasteful with a swimming pool (unheated, so chilly in autumn), suitable mod cons, and basic food and drink ready for you in the fridge. There were five of us, including two small children. Some days the thought of staying there instead of exploring was too tempting to resist.

We were in typical southern Algarve countryside — dry and scrubby, but with cork oak, almond, olive trees and cactus in abundance, and vines struggling through the red earth. At sunset the clunk of bells and distant bleating of sheep and goats drift through the quiet. One evening the children rode horses from the nearby riding school along sandy tracks around the neighbourhood.

The red earth lends itself well to the plates, jars, jugs and cups that fill the local potteries. But it is the *azulejos*

(tiles) that are the most typical feature of Portugal, emblazoned on the front of several guidebooks. Charming antique ones are worth looking out for. In churches all over the Algarve, blue tiles cover the walls in exotic competition with brilliant gold carving.

The small church in Vila da Bispo, to the west, is one spectacular example, a riot of blue and gold with an elaborately painted ceiling and bright chandeliers. Even more gorgeous is the chapel of San Antonio in Lagos. Through a modest entrance you suddenly find yourself in a golden chamber that glows in the semi-darkness.

Lagos itself — with its leafy square, Praça Gil Eanes, and the bizarre statue of Dom Sebastian, the 16th-century king, as a child in a space-man's outfit — was the most appealing of the larger towns in the western Algarve. The regional museum there is recommended.

A week was not nearly enough to explore even the western half of the Algarve, let alone confirm the promising reports of towns like Tavira in the east or the barely explored, wild north east. But the west coast repays a number of trips: the Cape of Saint Vincent, the most southwestern point of Europe, and nearby Sagres evoke the early days of Portuguese exploration.

The former is where in the 4th century the body of St Vincent, a Spanish priest, was brought in a boat guarded, it is said, by ravens. It became a Christian shrine where for centuries passing boats dipped their sails. The ravens remain and a lighthouse guards the dramatic coastline. Sagres is where Henry the Navigator, an early Renaissance Man, founded his school of navigation.

Further up the Atlantic coast, south of Praia da Amoreira, we worked up an appetite walking for miles along the beautiful, deserted beach at Borda, the scent of pine and herbs mingling with the salt.

Really good food was not



Day on the tiles: azulejos are the most distinctive and ubiquitous feature of Portugal, used to decorate everything from walls to churches

easy to find. Piri-piri (chilli) chicken is worth trying, as are fried prawns with piri-piri and garlic. The best meal of the week was when we ventured east to Olhão. Opposite the large fish market, on Avenida 5 de Outubro, is Restaurante Kinkas where the *cacipula* (seafood stew with pork, a local speciality) was excellent.

The Algarve sometimes tantalises then disappoints the visitor. Beautifully fresh and well-cooked fish is insulted by having to share a plate with vegetables straight from a school canteen, or a lovely view along a boulevard-lined street to a church is obscured by a heap of old building materials.

But occasionally, unexpectedly, it all comes right. Such as drinking coffee under the plane trees in the pretty hill village of Alte, with the stream flowing by, the sun high, and the verses of the local poet painted on blue and white tile panels at neat intervals along the wall.

TIMOTHY RICE

• The author was a guest of Meon Villas.

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In AD 1147, Dom Afonso Henriques, the first King of Portugal, conquered Lisbon with the help of English crusaders.

The English are now returning in expanding numbers but wielding six-irons instead of swords. The nearby Estoril coastline, a half-hour train ride from Lisbon, where the indigenous rich and famous prefer to holiday, is now cottoning on to the jargon of birdies and eagles.

It is cheap. Green fees range from £25 to £40 on the Algarve. Around Lisbon, they average £25 — and fairway fanatics do not have to rise with the dawn or queue for eternity to secure a tee time.

Estoril Palacio, an exclusive members club linked with the five-star Hotel Palacio, offers a taxing trail that means

Watch birdies on the coast

ders through eucalyptus and fragrant mimosa.

Crossing and recrossing the motorway, which bisects the par-69 splendour, can prove irksome and even traumatic, especially if players take the wrong path and inadvertently end up pulling bag and trolley along the hard shoulder.

The mix of links and woodland holes of Quinta da Marinha, bordering the Atlantic at Cascais, test the patience of a saint while the par-72 at Aroeira, across the Tagus suspension bridge on

the Costa Azul, cuts through dense pine and abundant flora. Many a professional was reduced to club-thumping frustration during the recent Portuguese Open held there.

Yet the Penha Longa estate at Linho, 33km from the capital, is the Lisbon jewel — a £100 million Japanese-backed "super resort" in the foothills of the Sintra mountains and former venue of the Portuguese

Open. The 6,748-yard course, designed by the American Robert Trent Jones Jr in the grounds of a 14th-century monastery, is only four years old but already has a reputation as one of the most spectacular — and difficult — in Europe.

Its peaceful aura can be shattered by high-powered testing on the neighbouring Estoril grand prix circuit but usually remains quiet when Penha Longa stages its premier events. Formula One shows great respect for its sporting cousins.

RUSSELL KEMPSON

• The author was a guest of Longshot Golf Holidays.

ESTORIL FACT FILE

- Seven nights at Hotel Palacio, Estoril, inclusive of flight, car hire and weekday play on hotel course, costs from £459 per person per week. A golf "passport", for four courses in the area, costs £99. Tramline hire is £2 per day, buggy hire is between £15 and £20.
- Return flights to Lisbon: British Airways (0345 222111) from £99. World Offer: TAP (Air Portugal, 0171-820262) from £97. Supersaver.
- Reservations and inquiries: Longshot Golf Holidays, Meon House, College Street, Petersfield, Hants GU32 3JN (01730 266621).

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Starting in October we shall be inaugurating a new flight series direct from London Gatwick to Agra for the Taj Mahal and in the process avoiding the tedium of travelling to and from Delhi and permitting the traveller to see that which he has come to see and able to relax and explore other parts of Rajasthan at an easy pace and when the weather is at its most pleasant. Our arrangement includes the international flight to and from Agra, visits to the Taj Mahal and Red Fort, 7 nights accommodation at either the 4-star Agra Clarks Shiraz hotel or alternatively at the 5-star Mughal Shezwan at a modest supplement. A variety of optional visits to Jaipur, Fatehpur Sikri, Silvand, Bantapur and Delhi are available. Alternatively you may elect to just relax and enjoy the facilities of your chosen hotel.

See the Taj Mahal set in formal gardens on the River Jumna, which was begun in 1630 by the Emperor Shah Jahan for his

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favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The building is of white marble and has pietra-dura inlay work of extraordinary delicacy. Later continue to the Red Fort, a complete Moghul city in itself, built by Akbar and enclosed by towering red sandstone walls. See the many courtyards and marble halls, including the suite of rooms where Shah Jahan was imprisoned for the last seven years of his life by his son Farrukhsiyar and where he died looking at the Taj Mahal.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES Tuesday — prices in £'000

1996

Oct 8, 15, 22, 29 £495

Nov 5, 12, 19, 26 £495

Dec 3, 10, 17 £495

Dec 24, 31 £550

1997

January 7, 14, 21, 28 £495

February 4, 11, 18, 25 £495

March 4, 11, 18 £495

March 25 £550

Single Supplement £165

Indicates flight to and from Agra, room and breakfast at the hotel selected, local transport and car hire. Not included: visa, airport taxes, tips, travel insurance. All prices are subject to change.

Africa: a one-day whitewater-rafting tour through the warm but drenching rapids of the Zambezi

When all's white with the world

When I shout 'bail out' I don't mean bale out. I mean bail the water out before we hit the next set of rapids," said the instructor, about to steer five novice whitewater rafters down the first ten rapids below Victoria Falls on the River Zambezi. "This season I've flipped three times, and I expect it will happen again soon. Anyone of a nervous disposition should leave."

This announcement, coming as it did after we'd all paid (cash, no cheques) and signed a disclaimer for insurance purposes, was not reassuring. The company we were using, Sobek Expeditions based in California, specialises in whitewater rafting around the world, and is named after a Egyptian river-god who looks like a croc.

John continued: "It's vital that you all do exactly what I say, when I say it. Otherwise the boat will go over. If I say 'highside right', you've got to throw all your weight onto the right tube before the wave flips us on our back. If anyone goes overboard we've got a rope, so throw it to them. And if you find yourself in the water, cross your arms across your chest and try to shoot the rapids first."

Presumably this was in the hope of getting away with a couple of broken legs rather than being brained on a boulder. Subdued, we set off down the river.

Downstream from the Victoria Falls the Zambezi runs through a narrow gorge with precipitous cliffs falling sheer into the water. We looked from the top and saw the soft Avon inflatables and the anti-climax figures of the porters. Then we started a slow descent.

Some of us clung nervously to the side and were put to shame by the retired couple from Belfast. "Why are you worrying about falling over just because you're near the edge?" asked the wife. "You don't just suddenly fall over for no reason in everyday life, do you?"



Not much reassured, we scrambled on down. The Victoria Falls never look small, even from above. From below they seem vast, and are deafening. But our attention was fixed on the rapids on the river. From a height these look like fast-flowing water; as one descends, it becomes clear that this is no mere river — it is a raging torrent. If a tree falls in it is thrown down the river and dashed into toothpicks on the first boulder.

But the descent had strengthened every resolve. Nothing could be worse than going back up. We climbed into a grey rubber dinghy, while John apologised that it was old, well patched and needed regular transfusions of air to keep afloat. His newer boat had burst the previous day. Hoping that the same was not going to happen to this one, we pushed off into a calm patch of water, with John putting his weight into rowing powerfully across the stream.

All too soon we were caught in the current and sucked inexorably through the first rapid. The boat plunged into a vortex of crashing waves as we threw our weight against the tubes lifted by the spray which filled the boat. Like a filled paddling pool our boat lurched towards the sheer rock wall on the far side of the rapids, and rocked as the crew unanimously flinched from the black basalt. "Bail!"



The rapids below the Victoria Falls are strong enough to reduce a fallen tree to toothpicks

shouted the guide, and no one felt any desire to bale out.

Once the boat was clear of water, John decided we needed a crew drill. "Right side," he shouted, and we threw ourselves vigorously to the left. "Left side" — and we all went right. It took a little time for him to explain the difference between right and left, even to the English speakers. Then he started on the Japanese, explaining linguistic details such as "forwards" and "back".

This was just as well, because from there the rapids got bigger and better. The rubber dinghy was thrown around like a floating scrap through rapid after rapid, with frantic bailing on the flat spots between. During the rare periods of relaxation we were shown the eagles' nests, hippo dens and

crocodiles, and were regaled with chilling stories of great rafting disasters. Looming ahead was a more immediate threat: rapid number nine.

Rapid number nine has never been rafted. We novices were just worried how to stop in time, and so it was a relief to find a pool of tranquillity after the adrenaline-rushing slide down number eight.

Once we'd stopped, a new problem presented itself. Although the river treated our boats as it would a dried leaf on its surface, off the water the Avon inflatable, strengthened with a steel frame, was heavy, and manhandling it down over the broken rock banks of the gushing white waters was far from easy. The six of us dragged it on to a slab

of basalt, and struggled to lift it to shoulder height.

Then we staggered along like some drunken 12-legged insect over broken rocks and sandy patches. Eventually we reached the steep drop of the main waterfall, and unceremoniously dumped the boat over the side to let the river bounce it flat.

Afterwards, it is hard to identify the best rapids. Was it four, the one that has overturned more rafts than any other since the sport was started on the Zambezi 15 years ago? Or seven, that left us gasping for breath after it spun us in a sickening series of whirlpools between the broken rock banks of the gushing white waters was far from easy. The six of us dragged it on to a slab

to fill and threaten the raft, to be classified as three-and-a-half, seven-and-a-half-quarters and so on. Whichever was worst — or best — everyone was entranced and determined to repeat the experience.

There is no reason to stick to a one-day ride down the Zambezi. Seven days of rapids stretch down from Victoria Falls towards Kariba, and companies in bordering Zambia and Zimbabwe run tours for individuals and groups.

Whitewater rafting was started by the holiday operator Sobek, which prospected the river by air before trying it out in practice, and is currently based in Livingstone on the Zambian side of the Falls. Since then, other operators have launched themselves into the lucrative rafting trade on the Zimbabwe side, starting further downstream.

infected areas. Consult your GP before travelling. Malaria prophylaxis is recommended for the Zambezi valley.

For stays of less than six months British passport holders do not need a visa for Zimbabwe.

Worldwide, whitewater rafting has become one of the fastest growing sports. Other places include Queenstown, South Island, New Zealand. Queenstown is a good place to arrange day-trips or longer safaris. In Cairns, Queensland, Australia you can go rafting for a day or let a helicopter drop you off for a longer ride, with several night under canvas.

Quest Worldwide (0181-547 3322) offers a day's river rafting through World Heritage rainforest, for £63 per person, departing daily from Cairns. Travelwood (0171-258 0290) offers a day tour for £50. Five and 11-day tours are also available.

The Australian Tourist Commission provides a factsheet and a faxback service. Using a fax machine, dial 099-404 404 and key in the pin number 307.

If there is enough rain, whitewater rafting is also available in Wales between mid-October and March at £30 per person per day. Contact Activity Wales (01437 766 888).

Purists may detect a certain hype factor in the introductory safety chat, and resent an early rendezvous immediately followed by a leisurely registration procedure. There are other time-killing techniques to stretch out ten rapids to fill a day tour. There was a time when the one-day tour took in the first 20 — an easy target.

Despite the padding, rafting the Zambezi is an unforgettable experience. Unlike the wilder waters of Canada and Chile, the Zambezi is warm, and so getting drenched is part of the fun. Although California can offer warm water, there is less of it and so the experience is less exuberant. As an introduction to this demanding and exciting sport the Zambezi is unequalled.

JACK BARKER

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Trekking on top of the world is an adventure that is accessible to anyone with the spirit and fitness to go for it. Today we feature three classic walks:

The Inca Trail, Mont Blanc Trek and Concordia and K2

You have the chance to win an incredible adventure holiday for two every year for life in a competition organised by *The Times*, in association with Exodus Travels. The winner can choose £1,000 worth of holidays for two from 200 adrenaline-pumping holidays in 65 countries.

The Inca trail to Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas, can be tough at times because of the trail conditions and the altitude, up to 4,000m, but that is part of the enjoyment.

The trail, now painstakingly restored, lasts for four days and because the area is so remote there is no alternative but to camp for three days in the mountains.

Trekkers are accompanied by a guide, porters, cook and helpers and the two-person tents are put up and dismantled by them, so it is camping in style.

While the trek is high in places and by no means a beginner's stroll, it is quite short and within the capacity of anyone who is fit and used to walking. You return to Cuzco on the equally breathtaking train ride along the Urubamba river, whose rapids provide



On the trail of the lost city of the Incas with a day's adrenaline-rich excitement as you whitewater raft along the Sacred Valley.

DEPARTURES: May 14, June 4 and 18, July 2 and 16, Aug 6 and 20, Sept 3, Oct 15 and 29. Ask for dossier TPT.

PRICE: £1,350-£1,395 plus £52 insurance.

Another classic walk on top of the world is the Mont Blanc Trek, one of the finest walks in Europe.

The circuit is a series of paths linking the seven valleys that surround the highest mountain in western Europe. Your route will take you across three borders from France into Switzerland, then into Italy and back to France. For much of its length it lies on high paths with magnificent views into the valley, sometimes

crossing huge glaciers, often meandering through alpine meadows and picture-book villages.

It is a grade B trek with 10 days of the 15-day trip spent walking at a maximum altitude of 2,500m. You fly from London to Geneva and then drive to Chamonix. Accommodation is camping in good campsites and occasionally in the wild.

This holiday is always popular so you will need to book quickly.

DEPARTURES: June 24, July 8 and 22, Aug 12 and 26, Sept 9.

PRICE: £580-£595, plus meals package £115 and insurance £22. Ask for dossier TWB.

For the seriously adventurous, there is a spectacular top-of-the-world walk to the base camp of K2, the world's second highest peak and one of the most daring to climb. A classic among trekking routes, it is exceptionally wild and remote. The holiday lasts for 23 days with 14 days trekking to a maximum altitude of 4,724m. Six nights are spent in hotels and 15 camping.

DEPARTURE: June 29, July 27, Aug 17, Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 9.

PRICE: £1,950, plus £58 insurance. Ask for dossier THC.

Send for a grading guide to help you decide which type of trek you are physically capable of from: Exodus Travels, 9 Weir Road, London SW12 0LT.

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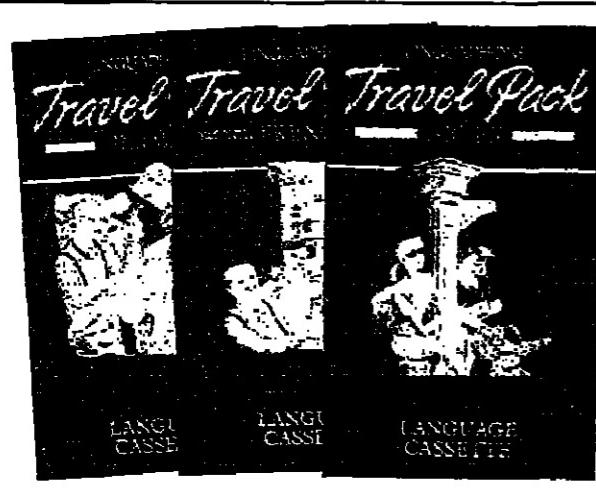
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more and vouchers of £250 on holidays over 22 days, booked before Dec 31, 1996. Full terms and conditions were published in last Monday's paper.

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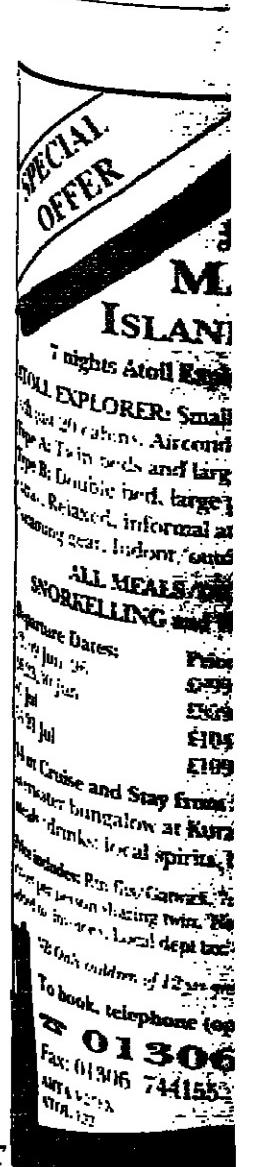
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TRAVEL

Weekend breaks in Britain: Cardiff enjoys a renaissance; plus the chocolate and castles of the North

Fruits of Victorian dreams

If a scholarly aristocrat and an eccentric architect were to hatch a scheme to create Cardiff Castle today, they would undoubtedly be refused planning permission for their grandiose project.

We are fortunate then that such a well-matched pair did come together before the days of planning inquiries and bureaucratic busybodies. The aristocratic patron was the third Marquess of Bute and his collaborator was the brilliant architect William Burges. Their joint dream in 1855 was to transform Cardiff's centuries-old castle into a medieval marvel.

Bute's father had virtually created modern Cardiff by establishing its dockland, and the young heir to the family fortune was willing to put his money where Burges's muse was. What he bequeathed to succeeding generations might be described as a cross between Disneyland and the Alhambra.

From the bustling city streets, the castle, with its neatly crenelated walls and symmetrical arrow slits, looks like a child's model fort. It stands on the 2,000-year-old site of Roman and Norman fortifications, but its present inspiration comes from the Middle Ages.

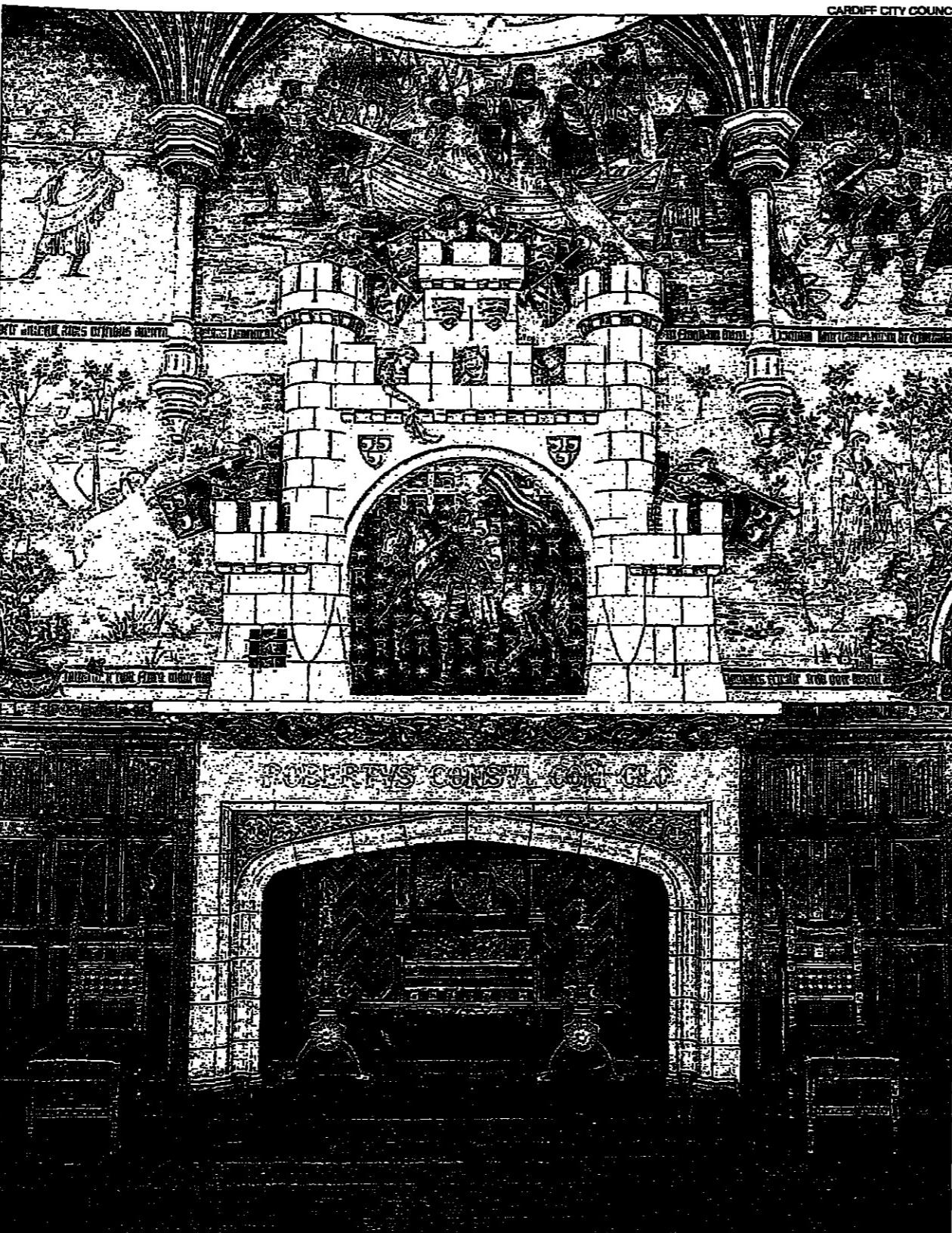
Inside the restored quarters, no surface remains unadorned. No wall lacks its mural and no ceiling is left ungilded. Even the nursery has a frieze depicting characters from the *Arabian Nights*. Hans Andersen and the brothers Grimm.

Like the castle, Cardiff itself comes as a pleasant surprise to the unsuspecting visitor. Considering the industrial heritage of surrounding valleys, it is remarkable that not a colliery winding gear or steelworks chimney interrupts the skyline.

Today's city remains a testament to Victorian enterprise. In 1800 the population of this sleepy market town was 1,800. By 1850 it had reached 30,000; today it is nearing 300,000. The motivators of this population boom were iron and coal.

A canal linking the iron foundries of Merthyr to Cardiff was opened in 1794 and a railway followed 50 years later. By 1913 Cardiff was the world's biggest coal port. Yet it has always been possible to stand in the centre of the city, oblivious to the existence of docklands only a mile away. The London-Fishguard railway line traditionally served as a physical and social barrier between the bourgeoisie and Butetown. It was a border which the majority of citizens rarely, if ever, crossed.

Uniting the two halves of the divided city is a prime aim of the £2.4 billion Cardiff Bay project, which involves the building of a barrage and the creation of an attractive waterfront. The scheme is going ahead in the face of objections by ecologists who point out that the existing mudflats provide winter feeding grounds for numerous wading birds. Despite the recent setback when the opera house project failed to attract Millennium



Inside Cardiff Castle no surface remains unadorned, even down to the chimney piece in the banqueting hall

money, visitors are already tentatively sampling its seaside delights.

Newcomers such as Techniquest, an educational science centre, and Harry Ramsden's fish restaurant have prudently adapted Victorian constructions. Techniquest is an exciting place for children and adults, packed with hands-on exhibits.

In Cathays Park, Cardiff can boast the finest civic centre in Britain. Begun at the turn of the century, it remains a testimony to Victorian civic pride. Here, on 60 acres of land bought from the third Marquess, is housed an icing-sugar confection of buildings, including city and county halls, law courts, museum and university. Portland stone facings and a neo-classical approach ensure unity.

Another Victorian legacy is the city's network of arcades. These glass-vaulted treasure caves are the forerunners of

modern shopping precincts. Some, like Castle Arcade, run to three storeys and have walkways linked by bridges.

In Bute town the formidable Coal Exchange building is said to have been the scene of the world's first million-pound deal. It was later destined to be the site of a Welsh parliament until most of the population said: "Thank you, but no thank you." Ebenezer Chapel, which dates from the middle of the last century, was built from stones brought back as ballast in ships returning from every corner of the world.

Though still a cosmopolitan capital, Cardiff is arguably more Welsh today than at any time in living memory. A middle-class revival of interest in the language is fuelled by patriotism and opportunism.

A bonus on a recent visit to hear Bryn Terfel, the world-famous baritone, sing at St David's Hall was to return to the Park Hotel after midnight

to find an impromptu *cymaenau ganu* (singing festival) at full throttle in the lounge bar. The choristers, complete with conductor and pianist, turned out to be members of the self-styled Terfel — a band of largely middle-aged fans who travel the world to support their local hero.

ALAN ROAD

• The author was a guest of the Wales Tourist Board (01222 399999).

• Where to stay: Marriott Hotel, Mill Lane (01222 399944). £89. £64 single, £79 double; Town House (B&B), 70 Cathedral Road (01222 239399). £39.50 single, £49.50 double.

• Where to eat: Quayles, 6-8 Romilly Crescent (01222 341204); Harry Ramsden's, Stuart Street (01222 463334).

• Attractions: Cardiff Castle, Castle Street (01222 822083); Techniquest, Stuart Street (01222 475475); National Museum and Gallery, Cathays Park (01222 397951).

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 25

DRENAGE

(a) An ancient form of tenure, connected with hunting services. Such service existed on the manors of the Bishop of Durham before the Conquest. The word is from the Danish *drenge* a boy or servant. "Thus there are persons holding in drenage, who have had to feed a horse and a dog and to go in the great hunt (*magra caza*) with two hounds and 15 cords."

KNURR AND SPELL

(a) An old English game resembling trap ball and played with a knur or wooden ball which is released from a little brass cup at the end of a tongue of steel called a spell or spile. After the player has touched the spring the ball flies into the air and is struck with two hammers and 15 cords."

PYLADES

(c) Pylades was the friend of Orestes in Homeric legend. Their names have become proverbial for friendship, like Damon and Pythias, and David and Jonathan. Orestes was the son, and Pylades the nephew, of Agamemnon. After Agamemnon was chopped in his bath, Orestes was evacuated to Pylades' father (Strophius), and the two became fast friends. Pylades assisted Orestes in obtaining vengeance on Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, and afterwards married Electra, his chum's sister.

BAKHA

(c) The sacred bull of Hermonthis in Egypt, an incarnation of Menthü, a personification of the heat of the sun. The versatile bull changed colour every hour of the day.

Sweet delights of a Yorkshire tour

Fortunately the ninth Viscount Fairfax of Emley was 150 years dead by the time his bedchamber in York was converted into a public lavatory and his drawing room and salon into a dance hall.

But, in other ways, he would be happier now. The York Civic Trust bought 18th-century Fairfax House from the city council in 1982. For more than two years the architect Francis Johnson restored the building to its former splendour.

If you visit Fairfax House these days you're meant to feel that His Lordship is still around. The fact that he doesn't materialise turns out to be no great disappointment. The wonderful collection of Georgian furniture and clocks, the beautifully ornate ceilings, ironwork on the great staircase and carved woodwork around the doors are engrossing.

Fairfax House, built by the Viscount in 1762 for his unmarried daughter Anne, was the Sunday attraction of a Heritage Weekend in Yorkshire, one of a number of such breaks offered throughout the country by Hilton National Hotels and Past Times. Ours, Northern Delights, meant two nights at the Hilton National Leeds Garforth and visits to Harrogate, Ripley Castle and Fairfax House.

Friday night, though, was chocolate night, with a talk from Chantal Coady, a founder in 1991 of the 5,000-member Chocolate Society. This body dedicates itself to increasing awareness of fine-quality chocolate. The talk and subsequent tasting, I suspect, was the main attraction for many of the 16 weekend breakers. The French Valrhona chocolate was handed around in small packets. "Treat it like a fine wine," urged Ms Coady. It was heaven.

Unfortunately Harrogate the next day didn't leave such a good taste, thanks to the sulphur water I tried, reputedly the strongest in Europe. This, along with other medicinal waters, brought countless people to this spa town from the 18th century to the early

part of the 20th. In 1912 there were 87 springs.

Our destination was the 1842 Royal Pump Room. In the old days people would visit either for a drink — in 1926 the place served 1,500 glasses of the water in one morning — or for a bath treatment for rheumatism, gout, digestive ailments or skin diseases. The water is drawn from the well inside the building, but there's a tap outside if you can't wait until opening time.

However, for a proper drink, give me Betty's Café Tearooms any day, where the lump sugar is the golden colour of Cotswold stone — although you can expect to pay £7 to £10 for two coffees and two cakes.

The business was established in 1919 by Frederick Belmont, a young Swiss confectioner, and is famed in these parts. Betty's is in York, Northallerton and Ilkley too. As for Betty, the secret of her identity died with Mr Belmont in 1952.

On the way to Ripley John Midgley, our coach driver, pointed out sights of interest: St Peter's School in York where they don't celebrate Guy Fawkes night because the Guy in question went to school there; a viaduct built over the River Wharf at Tadcaster for a railway line that never came; and an effluent treatment plant in the same town which serves three breweries.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

The author was a guest of Hilton National. For a brochure contact Special Events, Hilton National, Millbank House, Clarendon Road, W1, 01923 346484. This features 10 packages, including Conflicts of the English Civil War (May 4-June 2), Julian Wedgwood (July 19-21), and William Morris (1834-96 June 29-August 2-4). Prices from £147 per person.



The Northern Delights weekend takes in Ripley Castle

THE SACRED ART OF TIBET

A SPECIAL VISIT TO BHUTAN, TIBET AND KATHMANDU
23 March-13 April 1997 and 22 March-12 April 1998

This is a journey to the Himalayan Kingdoms of Bhutan and Nepal and onward to Tibet to learn more of the magnificent, yet scarcely understood sacred art of Tibet.

Our visit will be all the more memorable due to our good fortune in obtaining permission to visit the Pano Festival in the truly Buddhist Kingdom of Bhutan. Here in the splendour of their ceremonies and traditional costumes we shall have a rare opportunity to see and begin to understand the meaning of Tibetan religion and art and gain further insight into their way of life.

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly London (Gatwick)-Kathmandu

DAY 2 Kathmandu. Arrive mid-afternoon and stay 3 nights

DAY 3 Kathmandu. Visit the richly decorated Pagoda Temples of Durbar Square, the Museum with its superb 12th-14th century Nepalese statues and the Monastery of the Living Goddess. Also visit the great Buddhist stupa of Swayambhunath.

DAY 4 Kathmandu-Paro. Drive to Palan and see Durbar Square and the Pano Complex. In the afternoon visit the great Temple of Pashupatinath, the holiest of Nepal's shrines.

DAY 5 Kathmandu-Paro. Fly to Paro and stay overnight. On a clear day the flight affords breathtaking views of the great Himalayan peaks.

DAY 6 Thimpu. Drive to Bhutan's capital since 1955. Here in the broad fertile valley of the Wang Chu River, visit the National Library which houses a splendid collection of ancient manuscripts and the Traditional Medicine Institute, where centuries old remedies are still used.

Time permitting visit the Handicrafts Emporium or witness a mask and folk dance performance by the Royal Academy of Performing Arts.

DAY 7 Tongsa. Visit the Techin Dzong, Bhutan's administrative and religious centre, and the banks of the river and the historic Simtokha Dzong which houses the Rigney School for Monastic Studies.

DAY 8 Tongsa. Drive through the thickly forested mountain roads to Tongsa to see the impressive Tongsa Dzong, the ancestral home of Bhutan's royal family. Stay overnight.

DAY 9 Thimpu. Return to Thimpu at a leisurely pace, driving through magical countryside. Stay overnight.

DAY 10 & 11 Paro. A short drive takes us to Paro to attend various festival celebrations and visit the Rinpung (Paro) Zong, a treasure house of art and writings. There are splendid views of the whole valley. Permission will also be sought to

unbuckled by the modern world. Isolated, like Tibet, by its towering peaks of the Himalayas, its culture and traditions have remained constant for hundreds of years. And in Kathmandu, old and new rest side by side, the array of Hindu pagodas and Buddhist Chaityas a sculptors dream.

Similarly Bhutan, 'The Land of the Dragon' is hesitantly opening its doors and allowing a strictly limited number of travellers across its borders. Today's visitor is shown a fascinating society which is

the Brahmaputra River to Xigaze. Stay 2 nights.

DAY 18 Xigaze. Visit the Tashilumpo Monastery, one of the six great centres of Lamai. See the Panchen Lama's throne in the Great Hall, the 15th century wall paintings and some fine statues. Later see the market and the Shalu Monastery founded in 1040.

DAY 19 Lhasa. Drive back to Lhasa for 2 or 3 night stay.

DAY 20 Lhasa. A leisurely day visiting a market and the Drepung Monastery built in the early 1400's, once the largest and richest monastery in the world.

DAY 21 Lhasa-Kathmandu. Fly to Kathmandu. Stay overnight.

DAY 22 Kathmandu-London (Gatwick). Day flight arriving in the early evening.

1997/1998 DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES PER PERSON IN TWIN BEDDED ROOM

23 March 1997 £4695

22 March 1998 £5070

Single room supplement £550

Prices subject to exchange.

Price includes: Economy class air travel, accommodation in first class hotels, Kathmandu and Lhasa and Xigaze, all meals, all excursions, local guides, entrance fees and donations, UK departure tax, Guest Lecture, Your Manager.

Not included: Travel insurance, visas, airport taxes, gratuities.

Note: This itinerary includes some high altitude visits. Anyone concerned about this should consult their GP.

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WATERLILIES

(c) Waterlilies was the friend of Orestes in Homeric legend. Their names have become proverbial for friendship, like Damon and Pythias, and David and Jonathan. Orestes was the son, and Waterlilies the nephew, of Agamemnon. After Agamemnon was chopped in his bath, Orestes was evacuated to Waterlilies' father (Strophius), and the two became fast friends. Waterlilies assisted Orestes in obtaining vengeance on Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, and afterwards married Electra, his chum's sister.

BAKHA

(c) The sacred bull of Hermonthis in Egypt, an incarnation of Menthu, a personification of the heat of the sun. The versatile bull changed colour every hour of the day.

Answers from page 25

DRENAGE

(b) An ancient form of tenure, connected with hunting services. Such service existed on the manors of the Bishop of Durham before the Conquest. The word is from the Danish *drenge* a boy or servant. "Thus there are persons holding in drenage, who have had to feed a horse and a dog and to go in the great hunt (*magra caza*) with two hounds and 15 cords."

<b

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TRAVEL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

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TRAVEL

France: the ferries are gearing up for Round 2 of the fight against the Chunnel

Who'll rule Channel waves?

The theory was that the Channel Tunnel would swamp ferry competition when it started its car-carrying Le Shuttle service 16 months ago. The four rivals — P&O European Ferries, Stena, Sally Ferries and Hover-speed — would be reduced to a handful of crossings to cater for tunnel-phobia victims and die-hard traditionalists.

In fact, a price war broke out among the ferry companies. Some return fares for a car and passengers fell by two-thirds to under £100. The average fare dropped by 20 per cent.

This year a fifth competitor has joined the fray. Sea France was conceived after a split with Stena, partners for 30 years, but unable to agree plans in the post-tunnel market. Rather than bow out of a crowded market, each has increased capacity and become rivals at Dover.

So much for the theory. This summer there will be 81 sailings a day from Dover (compared with 66 last year) — with 40 more departures by Le Shuttle at Folkestone and 18 with Sally from Ramsgate.

On average, there will be one departure every ten minutes 24 hours a day as the six rivals, together with Brittany Ferries in the west, fight for a share of the 27 million passengers.

Sea France, which has spent £5 million renovating three ships, expects to lose money this year. But it has set itself an ambitious target of 2.7 million passengers by 1997 and is lauding its French ownership to distinguish itself from the pack. An on-board bakery produces 1,200 baguettes, croissants and pain-au-chocolat daily. A consultant French chef will produce different dishes; present offerings include confit de canard and lamb kebabs, alongside traditional British fare.

"We want to get away from the burger mentality that has dominated the Channel," says Robin Wilkins, the managing director. "If we had been just another ferry company we wouldn't last six months."

It is a moot point whether the British, who account for 70 per cent of the cross-Channel market, will consider cuisine when choosing between one steel hull and another.

Other initiatives include Hover-speed offering free newspapers and a windscreen wash this summer, Stena introducing a fast ferry at Dover and Sally planning one from Ramsgate.

But fares and terminal and on-board shopping are more motivating factors, along with ferry crossing

1 POOLE		
To Cherbourg:	Truckline/Brittany Ferries	4hr 15min
To St Malo:	Brittany Ferries	8hr
2 SOUTHAMPTON		
To Cherbourg:	Stena	5hr
3 PORTSMOUTH		
To Caen:	Brittany Ferries	5hr 45min
To Cherbourg:	P&O European Ferries	4hr 45min
To Le Havre:	P&O European Ferries	5hr 45min
To St Malo:	Brittany Ferries	8hr
4 NEWHAVEN		
To Dieppe:	Stena	Ship 4hr Sea Lynx 2hr
5 FOLKESTONE		
To Boulogne:	Hover-speed	55min
To Calais:	Le Shuttle	35min
6 DOVER		
To Calais:	Hover-speed	35min
P&O European Ferries	Ship 1hr 15min Stena 1hr 30min Sea Lynx 45min	
Sea France	Ship 1hr 30min	
7 RAMSGATE		
To Ostend:	Ship 4hr	
Ostende Line	Jetfoil 1hr 35min	
To Dunkirk:	Sally Ferries	2hr 30min

times and driving distance to the final destination.

Dover and Folkestone take 80 per cent of all cross-Channel business, and the effect of a price and duty-free war in 1995 attracted large numbers to forsake more convenient crossings and drive to Kent.

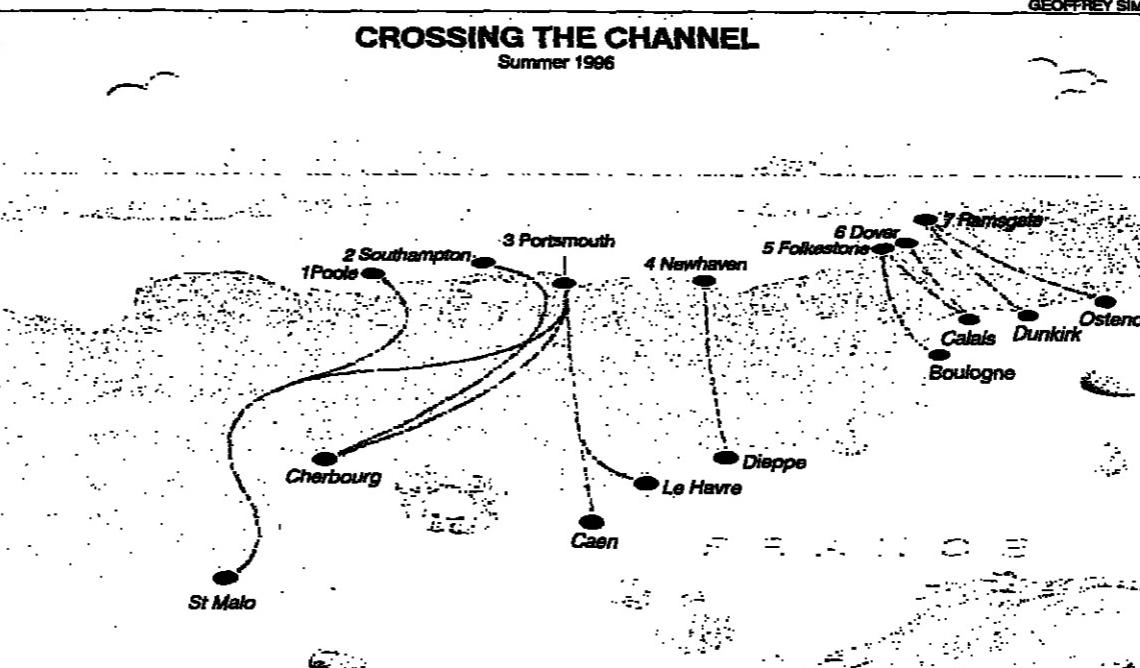
Brittany Ferries, operating from ports in Hampshire, Dorset and Devon, was worst hit, losing £10 million. It has hit back in 1996, matching prices to Cherbourg and Caen with those from Dover.

P&O copied the tactic on routes from Portsmouth to Le Havre and Cherbourg. The exercise has had a marked effect, making peak prices cheaper — but hugely inflating others

THERE is little difference in the prices quoted by ferry companies in their 1996 brochures.

The costliest crossings are the Friday or Saturday daytime departures during the school summer holidays, when P&O and Brittany Ferries charge £339 return for a car and occupants on routes to Calais, Cherbourg, Le Havre or Caen.

Stena Line, too, has a common pricing policy on its routes to Calais, Dieppe and Cherbourg of £326 return, with £10 supplements



outside school holidays. Families travelling to Normandy and Brittany on Saturday afternoons during the school holidays make the biggest savings, with prices falling from £359 last year to £225.

Worst off are couples taking morning or overnight departures in the summer outside the six-week school break, with fares rising by as much as 50 per cent. The fare on Brittany Ferries from Poole to Cherbourg in June rises from £172 to £257 for a couple.

Another effect of the tunnel is bound to have more consequences for ferries over-capacity. This clearly cannot continue and there is unlikely to be the same choice in 1997.

While the number of people crossing the Channel grew by 7 per cent last year, only two ferry companies made a profit. And the problems are growing.

The trend towards fast ferries demands more investment, and conventional ferries will have to be adapted to meet new safety requirements. The day-trip business, handy for filling empty ships in winter, was down 30 per cent this year. French companies are suffering the same fall in summer holiday bookings, mainly because of the strength of the franc.

With duty-free shopping due to be scrapped in 1999 the ferries face a further loss of income. P&O, which saw profits tumble by a quarter last

through selected outlets. These include Eurodrive (0181-524 4040) and Driveline Europe (01707 660001). Ferry Plus (0181-680 4400) is an outlet for Stena.

S.K. ● Details of ferry bargains are published in the Times Travel News pages every Thursday.

● P&O (0990 980 980), Stena (0990 707070), Sally (0990 595522), Hover-speed (01304 240241), Sea France (01304 204204), Brittany (0990 360360), Le Shuttle (0990 353535).

year, gets 35 per cent of its revenue from duty-free. In the meantime, it is losing duty-free business to le Shuttle, which has cut 60 per cent of high-street prices, extended its shopping areas at Folkestone and Calais, and is now selling £500,000 worth of goods each week.

Is the answer another price war? Don't be surprised if it is. While P&O is holding its nerve, the other main players, Stena and le Shuttle, are taking pot shots in a skirmish that could precede renewed battle.

Le Shuttle has extended its advance booking period to the end of April, knocking 20 per cent off summer prices. Stena, meanwhile, has cut prices by up to 40 per cent for travel this month.

The ferries are banking on long-term growth in the market and a levelling off of demand for le Shuttle to cement their future.

P&O and Stena can also be expected to renew talks on co-operation, given government clearance. But there is more to come in the short term.

It was Brittany Ferries that cracked first last spring, reducing prices on all summer crossings to £100 and forcing rivals to follow. The same may be expected this year.

STEVE KEENAN

Rural walks around Slovenija

TRAVEL TIPS

SLOVENIAN FARMHOUSES

FARMHOUSES in the wine-growing regions of Stajerska in the newly independent republic of Slovenija, well located for walking and climbing, can be rented from specialist company Slovenija Pursuits (01763 852646).

A week's stay costs between £325 and £333 including flights and B&B.

CULTURAL KRAKOW

KRAKOW looks like joining Prague and Budapest as a top-selling Central European city destination. It was, until the 16th century, the Polish capital, and its medieval, baroque and Renaissance treasures, unlike those of Warsaw, are largely untouched.

City specialists Cresta (01629 7000) offers two nights there for £201 B&B; a two-centre break combining Krakow with Warsaw with two nights in each city, and a two-

DISCOUNT PEKING FROM June 20 to July 18, Air China offers £590 non-stop return flights between Heathrow and Peking, with discounts on regional connecting flights from Leeds, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and in China to Xian and Shanghai. Regent Holidays (0117 921 1711).

FRANC CHALLENGE

THE Louvre now opens free on the first Sunday of each month: the normal Sunday rate is Fr26; weekdays Fr45; after 3pm Fr26.

Also for visitors, a free map from the French Tourist Office in London (0891 244 123 — 49p per minute between 8am and 6pm, 39p after 6pm) shows off-motorway petrol stations within a mile or so of exits, where fill-ups can be £3 cheaper than motorway petrol stations.

POSH PADS

MANY villas in the Caribbean work out costing less than those in St Tropez, even allowing for the air fares, claims Caribbean Chapters (0171-722 0722), whose new programme of 140 elegant properties includes some with staff, floodlit tennis courts, billiard rooms and even air-conditioned racquet-ball courts.

The four-bedroom Baie Rouge in St Martin costs £3,960 per week for eight holidaymakers in the summer, £6,480 in winter.

EGYPT WARNING

TOURISTS heading for Egypt are being told that they can change their plans if they have fears following Thursday's gun attack in Cairo which left 18 Greek holidaymakers dead. Thomson is offering full refunds for clients booked to travel in the next fortnight who decide to cancel. Abercrombie & Kent is offering to make alternative holiday plans for any clients reluctant to visit Egypt. The Foreign Office is revising its advice but will stop short of warning of British tourists altogether.

JILL CRAWSHAW

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The Russians' long love affair with Paris is highlighted by a prize-winning book, an exhibition and a church

Emigré basks in literary sun

been trying to win French citizenship for years.

The novel, soon to be published by Sceptre in Britain as *The French Testament*, is the story of a Russian boy who has daydreams of the

France he has never seen but has heard about from his French grandmother, now trapped forever in the greyness of Russia.

Aside from his lyrical writing, Makine conforms to the French ideal of a starving artist. He refuses to move from his sparse garret in Montmartre and, at 38, dresses like a student in scuffed corduroy jackets and glasses.

Of course, Makine is merely Russia's latest export to France in a long line. "For Russians, Paris is the cultural centre of the world," he says. Turgenev came to Paris and swelled around with Dumas, Zola and Flaubert, and Tol-

stoy and Dostoevsky were regular visitors.

Such cultural and social exchanges are celebrated in a Franco-Russian exhibition, which opened this month at the Musée Carnavalet in the Marais. The exhibition covers only the 19th century but the material is vast, from paint-

ings to diaries, clothes and "imperial" soaps. There is a photograph of Tsar Nicholas coming out of the Louvre, and drawings of the prototype for the roller coaster, *les montagnes Russes*, which were all the rage in the city's pleasure gardens. As Victor de Balabane, a Russian diplomat,

notes in his Paris diary in the 1840s: "We are quite fashionable here, and the Russians, today, the French say, are the English of 1830."

There were so many Russians in Paris by 1861 that they built their own cathedral church, St Alexandre Nevsky. Its five golden Byzantine

domes are worth a visit, and the splendid A La Ville de Petrograd food shop is next door to the church, offering caviar, borscht and blini.

KATE MUIR

● "Les Russes à Paris au XIXe Siècle" is at the Musée Carnavalet, 29 Rue de Sévigné, 3rd arrondissement, until June 30.

● Church St Alexandre Nevsky, 12 Rue Daru, 8th. A La Ville de Petrograd.

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LADIES

AFFECTIONATE, educated professional NE England. Interests include sport. Seats male 37-45. Photo preferred. Box No 5265

ATTRACTIVE, beautiful novelist, 29, very good looking, very young 40's. seeks care for writer's cramps. Medical, N/S, kind, humorous, make who appreciates music, culture, country & town, and conversation and me. The stuff of fiction? Said responsibilities only with pleasure. Please Reply to Box No 5168

ALONE at the Top? Looking for a new life. Intelligent, well-spoken, slim, very attractive, well-travelled, successful, professional, N/S kind, humorous, make who appreciates music, culture, country & town, and conversation and me. The stuff of fiction? Said responsibilities only with pleasure. Please Reply to Box No 5168

ASPIRING Petroleum. He/himself would dearly appreciate similar qualities in a woman whom to whom to visit. English graduate as in process of making my own attractive, warmhearted humor & sufficient, well-travelled, good looking. Photo please. Photo preferred. Box No 5208

ATTRACTIVE blonde, 29, Pub. stable, positive, COSH, even-tempered, down-to-earth, country-style evenings in & out. WLTM similar, more 35-50, to meet other professionals. Tel: 0181 426 1242

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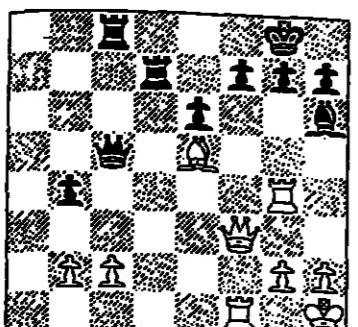
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GAMES

CHESS

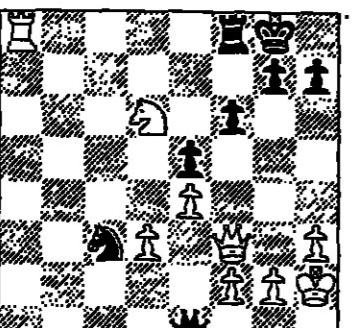
by Raymond Keene

MY DAILY Winning Move puzzles continue to stimulate intense reader debate.



I published this position, from the game Chandler-Speelman, Hastings 1990, on December 29. The given solution was 1 Qf6!, threatening Rg2+ and Qxh6. Black was forced to try 1... Kh8 2 Rxg7 Qxe5, which left him with a lost game.

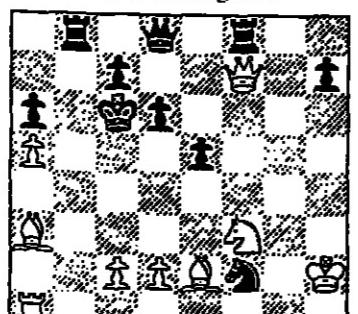
Peter Wylie of Devon suggests 1... Kf8 as a better attempt to repulse the attack. However, after 1 Qf6 Kf8 2 Qxe6, White has regained his pawn with a very strong initiative. Yet 1... Kf8 is as good as Speelman's defence, which committed him to an unsatisfactory queen sacrifice.



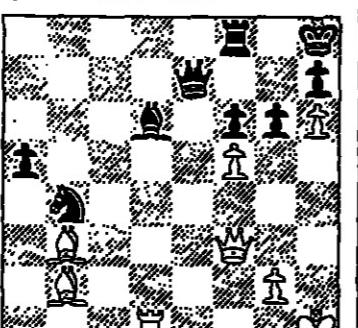
The next position is from the game Varga-Lengyel, Hungary 1995. The given solution was 1 Qf6! Rxg2 Qb7 (there is nothing better) 2 Qe6 Kh8 3 Nf7+ Kg8 4 Nh6+ Kh8 5 Qg8+ Rxg8 6 Nf7 checkmate. Also full marks for 1 Qg4 which leads to a similar finish.

D.Sugden of Halifax points out that White has another attractive way to win with 1 Qh5! Rxg2 Qf7+ Kh3 3 Ne8 and mate follows. Well

sported! In fact, Mr Sugden's suggestion is slightly faster than the line found in the game.



This position is from a game played in a simultaneous display in 1995. My opponent (Black) was Philip Bond. How does White exploit the exposure of black's king to force a quick mate? The solution is 1 Nxg5! dx5 2 Qc+ Kd7 [2... Kb7 3 Qxb6 mate] 3 Qd5+ Kb8 4 Bxa6 Rb7 5 Qxb7 Kd7 Qd5+ and mate follows. Mr Mercado of Essex suggests a swifter mate with 2 Bf3+ Kh5 3 Qb3+ and mate next move. However, 2... e4 throws a spanner in the works.



This position was published on December 27. It is from the game Speelman-Kosten, Hastings 1990. White won with 1 Rxg6 Qxd6 2 Qb7 and if 2... Rg7 3 Qf7 wins. Mr Shaw of London suggests that Black could try 1... Qe1+ 2 Kh2 Qh4+. The ideas are: 3 Kg1 Qe1+ 4 Qf1 Qe3+ and... Qxb3; or 3 Qh3 Qf4+ and... Qxd6. This is a good try but unfortunately in the latter variation White can play 3 Qh3 Qf4+ 4 Qg3, protecting the rook on d6 and remaining a piece ahead.

WINNING MOVE

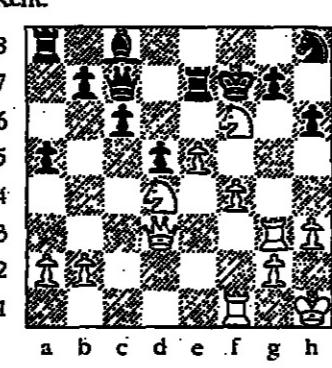
By Raymond Keene
This position is from the game Alekhine - West, Portsmouth 1923.

Alekhine's kingside assault has left the black pieces in some disarray. How did he now conclude his attack in powerful style? White to play.

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qxd7+

Last week's winners: R. Gedling, Epsom, Surrey; C. Collier, Box, Wiltshire; S.A. Osborn, Dover, Kent.



READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption (105) Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, April 24.

PUNCHLINE

PUNCHLINE



War Profite (H. G. Cooper). "Mind you, we want a good substantial residence. We mean to settle in this neighbourhood. We're no birds of paradise."

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DRENAGE
a. A kind of plum
b. Hunting tenure
c. A gauntlet

KNURR AND SPELL
a. Ball game
b. German story-tellers
c. Bread and cheese

PYLADES
a. Ceremonial gates
b. Haemorrhoids
c. A faithful friend

BAKHA
a. A tip
b. A patron
c. A bull

Answers on page 21

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Dr G. Dunger of Eastleigh, Hampshire

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE British Bridge League has selected Paul, Jason and Justin Hacken, Ian Monaghan, Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson to represent Great Britain at the 1996 Olympiad in Greece.

The six made up the team that convincingly won the BBL's 1996 Premier League. It is the first time that three members of the same family have played on any major international bridge team, and it is also the first time a "sponsor" has been selected for Great Britain — Ian Monaghan pays the other five to play with him in the Premier League. I'm afraid I don't know how much.

It is extraordinary how often it proves to be correct to bid Four Spades on quite modest hands when opponents have pre-empted and/or been raised to Four Hearts. This example is from the Premier League match between Sowter and Rosen.

Dealer East East-West game IMPs

+AK832 +84

+J7 +10862

+84 N +5

♦KOJ7652 W E +103

- S +KO105432

+AQJ7 ♦K94

+OJ1076 N +5

♦A9 W E +103

+A986 S +53

W N E S

King Sheehan Rosen Senior

Queen 3e Pass Pass

4e Pass Pass 4e

5e All Pass 5e

Contract: Four Spades doubled, by South. Lead: king of hearts

When this came back to Senior, he followed the principle I mentioned earlier in the column. Four Spades was only one off. King was right to double rather than bid on, although Five Hearts is only beaten on the unlikely lead of a heart. If dummy plays low on the heart, South also has to play low or else there are two entries to dummy to ruff out the ace of diamonds and cash the king.

How about this one? You are South, holding

♦A8752 ♠ K ♣ KJ1064 ♦ 43

and you have to make a decision in this auction (Love-all, teams, dealer West).

W N E S

3H Pass 4H ?

Another on the same theme: you are vulnerable against non-vulnerable. Your right-hand opponent deals and opens Four Hearts and you hold:

♦QJ109876 ♠ 64 ♦ K ♣ K85

What would you do? I will discuss these two decisions in this column next week.

you come across any software mistakes which have amused you or, worse, made your blood boil? To enter the competition, write with details of a goof or mistake that you have spotted in any game or multimedia title, which you should name clearly. Alternatively, just send us your favourite computer joke.

The competition is open to all ages and the three best entries will scoop US Gold software bundles including games *Riddle of Master Lin*, *Chronomaster*, *Tech War*, *Comancina vs Werewolf* and *Johnny Bazookatone*, as well as the history of flight reference CD-Rom, *Dreams of Flight*.

SEND your entries, together with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to Cyberspace Twenty-Three, Computer Games, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax entries to us on 0171-729 6791. The competition closes at midnight on Tuesday April 30, and the judges, as usual, will not enter into additional correspondence.

"Any man with ambition, integrity and \$10,000,000 — can start a daily newspaper."

Henry Morgan (1950).

White to play.

Send your answers on a post-

card to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qxd7+

around the academy to be done to reach your various encounters, lessons, experiments and simple music games. Fortunately, however, the graphics illustrating the academy are spell-bindingly beautiful. The only drawback is the speed — *The Art of Singing* can be slow and tricky on a 486 PC and should ideally run on a Pentium machine.

Less inviting, for all its clean lines, is Notting Hill's International Athletics. Hoping to sell well in the run-up to this year's Olympic Games in Atlanta, this game sees you roaming a sports stadium to track down sporting facts and historical footage. You can also try out your athletic skills in track and field events.

Clever as it is, the endless mouse-clicking required to get you around soon becomes boring and contributes to its impenetrability.

Elsewhere, seminars are given by Dr Jonathan Miller and, unlike as it seems, Mozart; in the concert hall you can listen to nearly an hour's worth of performances by Luciano Pavarotti and Maria Callas among other singers, while in the CD-Rom's library you can access a complete glossary of singing terms.

There is an awful lot of traipsing

around the academy to be done to reach your various encounters, lessons, experiments and simple music games. Fortunately, however, the graphics illustrating the academy are spell-bindingly beautiful. The only drawback is the speed — *The Art of Singing* can be slow and tricky on a 486 PC and should ideally run on a Pentium machine.

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The next titles in Notting Hill's pipeline are *Wines, Spirits and Beer*, based on last year's *Which? Wine Guide and Bloomers' World Beer Guide*, and *The Evolution of Life*, focusing on Darwinian theory and DNA.

Notting Hill, despite the lacklustre appeal of *International Athletes*, is making an impressive start with sufficient stylish trickery for it to be taken seriously in the years to come.

Elegant interiors in *The Art of Singing*

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FORGET LONDON, PARIS AND ROME. THIS IS WHAT THE WOMEN IN PHNOM PENH ARE WEARING.



Today the growth industry in Cambodia isn't fashion. It's prosthetics.

The country has around 20,000 amputees from a population of just 8.5 million. This means one amputee for every 236 people (compared to a figure of one for every 22,000 people in America).

So why is the situation in Cambodia so bad?

The country has suffered from civil unrest for many years. But the real villain of the piece isn't so much the war, as the weapons.

Cambodia is literally being crippled by anti-personnel landmines.

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"I cannot earn money because no one will employ me. I wanted to have children. But no-one will marry me because I don't have a leg."

And so she is forced to follow the dangerous paths into the rice fields at harvest

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Gartmore gets its timing right for Japanese launch



Japanese consumers are taking a different attitude and looking outwards

SIS N RING.

Japanese dignitaries bidding farewell to President Clinton on Thursday night were able to do so on a happy note. In Britain at least one fund manager was equally happy with the outcome of the US presidential visit. In particular, he was pleased that it coincided with news that the politically sensitive and huge trade surplus between America and Japan had fallen by 27 per cent in the year to March. Indeed, the whole timing of the President's Japanese visit could not have been better for Michael Wrobel, managing director of Gartmore, who this week unveiled plans for a new Select Japanese Investment

Trust. Last year nothing went right for Japan and the market indicators were largely negative. A soaring yen, zero growth, little inward investment, banking scandals and an ever growing trade surplus with the US all acted as a drag on the long-mooted recovery of the world's second largest stock market.

This year is different, says Mr Wrobel. While other major world stock markets, including the US Dow Jones industrial average, are reaching new highs, the Japanese market is still 40 per cent below its all-time high in December 1989. This, in theory at least, should leave

plenty of room for capital growth prospects.

According to the latest Merrill Lynch Gallup survey, UK fund managers are heavy buyers of Japanese equities, with 77 per cent taking a bullish view on the next 12 months. With the Japanese Government easing the heavy burden of regulation, consumers are discovering an appetite for foreign goods. Car manufacturers, for example, are beginning to make inroads into the domestic markets, making distributors a natural buy for the new Gartmore trust.

Mr Wrobel also points out that the number of personal computers in Japan is 14 per 100 people, compared with 46 in the US. The comparable statistics for mobile telephones are 7 per 100 in Japan and 12 per 100 in America.

Gartmore, which last week became part of the NatWest empire, has taken the house view to be overweight in Japan and underrepresented in the US market. Mr Wrobel points to the most positive indicators being a weak yen, political stability, record low interest rates and the return of capital expenditure on much needed investment in companies and rising retail sales.

The Wrobel approach to individual stockpicking will be the "top down" approach with the sector or industry coming first and then being narrowed down to the company. He adds: "The trust's portfolio is expected to maintain a relatively broad spread of invest-

ments, comprising between 60 and 70 individual holdings, with initial emphasis placed on smaller and medium-sized companies in domestic manufacturing, electronics and real estate. We will also emphasise themes including companies which will benefit from a weaker yen or from structural change, for example, the rapidly growing personal computer market."

This will be the first trust launch since the £470 million NatWest acquisition and Gartmore will be out to prove its mettle with its new owner.

Still in the Pacific Rim but this time excluding Japan, is a new Asian Values investment trust from Fidelity which will be launched officially next week. K.C. Lee, who will manage the newcomer, will cast his net wide and include markets such as India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and China.

Finally, TR Pacific Investment Trust yesterday announced that its bid for Thornton Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust had been successful. The TR trust, managed by Michael Watt, offered new TR Pacific ordinary shares, or a cash alternative, for a Thornton trust that had long languished at the bottom end of the performance scale.

The TR bid was neat and clinical. Many other poor performers should sit up and take note.

Gartmore: 0800 919 727. Fidelity: 0800 414171.

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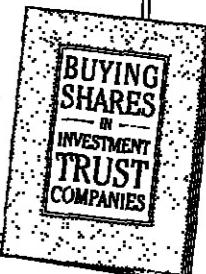
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Up-to-date guides on social security

RECENT government figures reveal that benefits worth up to £3.2 billion a year — more than £60 million a week — are going unclaimed, with 4.7 million people living on incomes below income support level. The Child Poverty Action Group has revised and updated its two handbooks which explain the social security benefit rules as they apply from April 1996.

The National Welfare Benefits Handbook provides a guide to claiming means-tested benefits, particularly income support, housing benefit and family credit. The booklet, costing £8.95, includes the new income support rules affecting people in residential care, lone parents and under-25s, and housing benefit restrictions.

Rights Guide to Non-Means-Tested Benefits explains all non-income related benefits, including unemployment benefit, disability living allowance, statutory sick pay, and pensions for widows. The guide costs £7.95. Send a cheque to CPAG Ltd, 1-5 Bath Street, London EC1V 9PY.

□ Investors who find themselves owning shares in quantities so small that it could cost more to sell them than they are worth, could donate them to charity. The ShareGift scheme enables shares donated in this way to be transferred into the Orr Mackintosh Foundation, a registered charity, whose purpose is to realise as much value as possible by selling the shares. Parcels of shares will be aggregated, sold, and the proceeds will be passed to UK charities. Call 0171 461 4501.

□ Maclay Murray & Spens, the law firm, has launched a new independent valuation service for with-profits life assurance policies. The service will assess market value rather than surrender value of policies, advising on the loan available and interest rate applicable against the policy. The new service is available only through professional advisers. Call 0141 2485011.

□ The new rules for public offers of securities are explained in a Treasury booklet, which will help issuers of securities, investors and their professional advisers understand the main features of the legislation. Send a £2.50 cheque to HM Treasury, Public Enquiry Unit, Room 110/2, Parliament Sq, London SW1P 3AG.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at April 18, 1996			
Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)	
1 Year			
5,000	AIG Life	5.05	
10,000	AIG Life	5.10	
20,000	AIG Life	5.25	
50,000	AIG Life	5.35	
2 Years			
5,000	AIG Life	5.98	
10,000	AIG Life	6.13	
20,000	AIG Life	6.23	
50,000	AIG Life	6.43	
3 Years			
5,000	AIG Life	5.98	
10,000	AIG Life	6.23	
20,000	AIG Life	6.38	
50,000	AIG Life	6.48	
4 Years			
5,000	AIG Life	6.21	
10,000	AIG Life	6.41	
20,000	AIG Life	6.51	
50,000	AIG Life	6.56	
5 Years			
1,000	Premium Life	5.60	
3,000+	Pinnacle Insur	6.75	

Source: Chamberlain de Bré 0171 434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Portman BS 01202 232444	Inst Access High Street	Instant	£100	4.80	Y/y
Skipton BS 01756 700511	Gt Nth Postal Albion	Instant	£2,500	5.10	Y/y
Northern Rock BS 0600 505000	Gt Nth Postal	Postal	£5,000	6.25	A/V/y
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2438292	Postal	Postal	£10,000	5.60	Y/y

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nwch & Pibthg BS 01733 391497	Postal 10	10 day p	£10,000	6.10	Y/y
Coventry BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day p	£2,000	5.45	Y/y
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 75	75 day	£1,000	6.00	Y/y
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	120 Account	120 day	£25,000	6.75	Y/y

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)

	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£8,575	7.40	F/M/y
Cheltenham & Glouce 0800 717505		5 year	£3,000	7.50	Y/y
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721		5 year	£1,000	7.25	Y/y
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£25	7.25	Y/y

Nb. A = bonus if account opened by 30.4.96, C = no interest free period, D = for debt consolidation only, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), G = Annual rate 5% above R Fleming rate, OM denotes interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

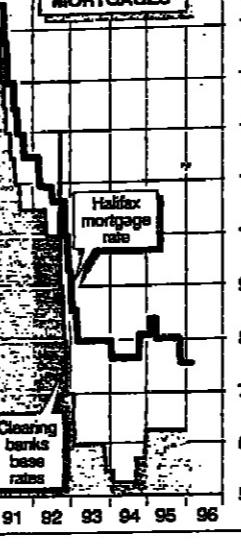
* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01922 500 977)

15

BASE RATES VS MORTGAGES



NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%	Min investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c*	1.75	1.81	1.05	10-10,000*		0645 645000
Investment A/c's	5.00	3.75	3.00	20-500*	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*	6.25	4.68	3.75	2,000-25,000*	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond*	6.25	4.68	3.75	10-10,000	8day	0645 645000
43rd Issue Certs*	5.35			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Children's Bond	6.75					0645 645000
Gen End Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds	6.85	4.98	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Linkd*	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensions SS 3.75	7.00	5.25	4.20	500-50,000	8day	0645 645000

* First £70 (£140 p) of net tax free, rest rates for up to £100,000 for remitted proceeds. ** Tax-free. Rates gross and yield. Guaranteed when held for 5 years. 12.5% net bonus for £200,000+ (£100,000+) in addition to S1 and S2 holdings. Taxable but credit full. *** Fixed rates apply.

16

PENSION ANNUITIES

	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life	£10,238	£11,402	£12,970
Stalwart *	£10,222	£11,359	£12,453
Prudential	£10,306	£11,323	£12,683
Equit Life	£10,277	£11,187	£12,881
Royal Life	£10,034	£11,165	£12,895

17

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)

	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Stalwart *	£9,419	£10,307	£11,186
Prudential	£9,422	£10,285	£11,361
Canada Life	£9,413	£10,248	£11,473
Royal Life	£9,405	£10,205	£11,384
MGM Assurance	£9,360	£10,113	£11,229

18

JOINT LIFE / 2/3 WIDOWS (level ann)

	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Stalwart *	£9,232	£9,805	£10,889
Prudential	£9,174	£9,758	£10,871
Canada Life	£9,092	£9,656	£10,748
MGM Assurance	£9,076	£9,558	£10,726
Equitable Life	£9,046	£9,533	£10,706

19

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 529 9320).

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JOINT LIFE / 2/3 WIDOWS (level ann)

	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Venables takes FA to task over successor

By PETER BALL

TWENTY-FOUR hours after apparently opening and then closing the door to his continuation as England coach, Terry Venables yesterday criticised the Football Association's delay in appointing his successor. Venables returned to the subject when the England squad assembled at Bisham Abbey to prepare for Wednesday's match against Croatia.

"It's a good job I didn't wait until after Euro '96. I've got to say that, because if it had taken the same amount of time, there would have been a certain amount of matches already played," Venables said. "That's why it was helpful of me to make my announcement at Christmas because it still gave the FA plenty of time to do it."

With suggestions that Glenn Hoddle's contract negotiations with Chelsea are stall-

for the match against Croatia, using an all-Liverpool attack of Collymore and Fowler, with McManaman in his free role behind them. Venables is a cautious man, however, and he may not want to take such a bold step.

"They are a very good combination now," Venables said. "I've got to think it through and decide what is best for myself, the team, and everyone else. There's no doubt McManaman's experience of playing with both of them helps, but whether it's the right thing to do is another matter."

Collymore has been in excellent form during Liverpool's run-in this year and his partnership with the prolific Fowler is burgeoning. "I've always believed I can play at this level, and to play with Robbie would be a bit special," Collymore said. "As a partner I don't see why we can't work for England."

"I'm not as much of an out-and-out striker as I was last season. The gaffer [Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager] didn't want me and Robbie pushing up against two centre halves and I've had to do something different to justify my place. It gives me more of the ball, and making goals for Robbie is almost as enjoyable as scoring them."

Peter Beardsley was the only member of the England squad not to train yesterday. Croatia have included Igor Stimac, the Derby County defender, and Slaven Bilic, West Ham, in their squad.

There was a brief respite in the withdrawals from the Ireland squad for their game with the Czech Republic in Prague on Wednesday when Jason McAteer returned after withdrawing on Thursday. "I am going to join the squad, although I am doubtful and it is possible I may be sent back home," McAteer said, after treatment on his knee at Anfield. Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, has lost Staunton, Alan Kelly, Gary Kelly, Casciaro, Aldridge, Phelan, O'Neill and Farrelly from his original selection.

Germany have failed to get Jürgen Klinsmann available for their first game in the European Championship, against the Czech Republic, at Old Trafford on June 9. The German FA mounted a campaign to get bookings incurred in the qualifying matches discounted. "We are not prepared to make any changes," Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, said last night.

Fowler: may lead attack

ing while he waits for an approach, the FA may be closer than Venables realises. Yesterday David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, insisted that the process was not stagnating. "We are progressing. I hope the situation is resolved as soon as possible," he said.

The first World Cup qualifying game against Moldova is on September 1, but as there is no time for Venables's predecessor to bed in with matches anyway, the only real reason for haste would seem to be for Venables, himself, if he still harbours hopes of being approached again. That remains unlikely.

With Shearer and Ferdinand missing, Venables yesterday was considering a move from the Christmas tree, to the red arrows, a rather more aggressive formation,



Reid, brought in to save Sunderland from the second division, has taken the club to the verge of the Premiership

Reid's record deserves promotion

Peter Ball says bigger challenges lie ahead for the architect of the Roker renaissance

FOOTBALL managers with brief singing careers behind them are not unknown — Kevin Keegan, Glenn Hoddle and Terry Venables all cut discs in their playing days. For a manager to be the subject of a hit song is another matter, making Peter Reid unique when *Cheer Up, Peter Reid*, the Sunderland supporters' version of *Day Dream Believer*, reached 41 in the charts.

Reid deserves such acclaim.

He has still to prove that he can manage great players and build a great team, because so far he has not had the resources, but on his achievements with two ordinary teams at Manchester City and Sunderland, he could become one of the game's outstanding managers.

His team are flying higher than the record. The opening line reflects his lugubrious countenance while watching games, but as anyone who has been out with him can testify, he knows how to enjoy himself, and he is enjoying himself hugely at the moment as Sunderland go into their game with Stoke City tomorrow with the Endsleigh Insurance League first division title within their grasp.

It has been a remarkable transformation. Nine of the players in the team which beat Birmingham City 30-0 on Tuesday were on the books when Reid arrived at Roker Park 13 months ago, charged with saving the club from

relegation. Reid had been out of management for 18 months, in spite of his success with Manchester City, where he had taken a limited side to fifth and ninth in the Premiership, before being sacked three games into the 1993-94 season. In the light of what has happened since at Maine Road, these were halcyon days for Reid.

Reid's record suggested that he should have got a job as soon as the sacking season began, but unaccountably nothing suitable emerged.

Instead, he continued playing, helping out at Southampton and Notts County before ending up at Bury.

Even when the Sunderland job arrived, it was initially a short-term appointment. It quickly became permanent. Understandably, Reid now allows himself a quiet smile at the prospect of City and Sunderland changing places.

The defence was all right when I was there," he said, "but I wanted to bring in Sinclair, Townsend and Paul Stewart to give us a bit more

in attack. But he [Peter Swales, the chairman] wouldn't let me spend the money."

The key player at Sunderland has been Paul Bracewell, Reid's old Everton midfield colleague, who has given him a leader on the field and a like-minded assistant off it.

"Paul's influence on this football club has been massive, on and off the field," Reid said.

His other signings were David Kelly and, last month, Paul Stewart, this time on a free transfer. He had got his man at last, again to some raised eyebrows, especially as Reid wanted him to play in his original position as a striker.

"I don't think he's a goalscorer," Reid said, "but he's a strong so-and-so, and I do like a forward who can hold it up and give the midfield players a chance to get in. Since he's been here, Kevin Ball and Steve Agnew have scored three goals each."

Bolton's performances this season suggest that Reid will not know to the result of the Derby game — who today are at home to Birmingham City — until after the match. Palace supporters are unlikely to show similar restraint.

Bassett did insist, however, that he will not want to know the result of the Derby game — who today are at home to Birmingham City — until after the match. Palace supporters are unlikely to show similar restraint.

It will surely be for a genuine big club.

SUNDERLAND could be promoted to the FA Carling Premiership today without kicking a ball (Peter Ball writes). If third-placed Crystal Palace fail to win at Wolverhampton Wanderers, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division leaders will be sure of promotion, even before they face Stoke City at Roker Park tomorrow.

Palace's run from the lower half of the table into a play-off slot since Dave Bassett arrived has seen them suffer only one defeat in 13 games. Now, even Derby County, in second place, are within their range, and Bassett yesterday rejected suggestions that his team

might benefit from a further year in the Endsleigh League.

In the short term, at least, Bassett has made more impact than Mark McGhee, the Wolverhampton manager, whose side are without a win in four games. This afternoon, they will be without Darren Ferguson, who is suspended while Palace are missing their captain, Ray Houghton, for the same reason.

Bassett did insist, however, that he will not want to know the result of the Derby game — who today are at home to Birmingham City — until after the match. Palace supporters are unlikely to show similar restraint.

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SUNDERLAND could be promoted to the

perpetuating
the law for rich
other for poor

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

SPORT 43

African queens of the road ready to rule in London



Kimaiyo: highly-rated

ONE of the last havens for distance runners, where they have felt safe from the tide of Kenyan success, is about to be stormed. The women's section of the London Marathon has never had a Kenyan woman in the top ten, but three will be seeking to make their mark tomorrow, emphasising a fundamental change in their society's attitude towards women who run.

Kenyan women are increasingly mirroring the achievements of their all-conquering men. Their team victory at the world cross-country championships last month was their fifth in six years; on the track they have been prominent in the last three world championships, and Tegla Loroupe has won the New York City Marathon for the past two years.

"The girl most likely to shock at this year's marathon," was how

David Powell discovers that Kenya's women runners are no longer content to let the men have all the glory

David Bedford, the elite race director, introduced Hellen Kimaiyo to the press this week. The two other Kenyans are Angelina Kanaso and Joyce Chepkumba. Kanaso set a national record of 2hr 27min 41sec when finishing second in Berlin last autumn. Chepkumba is, according to her manager, Volker Wagner, ready to run "at least as fast as 2hr 27min". No woman has recorded quicker than 2hr 27min since 1991.

"First of all she likes running, but one race brings more money than a year's income in Kenya," Wagner said. Once it was the case that Kenyan women would be tied to the home, especially mothers like

Kimaiyo and Chepkumba, but now the men see them as ticket to wealth. "Joyce had a boyfriend who was looking for someone in sport," Wagner added. "I told her she had to be careful because these women are wanted because they are rich."

Even before she won in New York for the first time, Loroupe could afford a house. "If she was not a runner, she would have to work for 40 years to buy her first house," Wagner said. "Very few Kenyan women have a chance to buy their own home." Chepkumba has also purchased property out of her prize-money and the winner's purse of \$35,000 (about £36,600) plus a

\$10,000 bonus for times of sub 2hr 28min tomorrow, are powerful incentives for her to run as quickly as her manager suggests she should. She recorded 2hr 33min 51sec in New York last November without training specifically for the marathon. This time she has. She has prepared with Loroupe, who was second in the Boston Marathon on Monday in 2hr 28min 31sec. "Joyce did the same training as Tegla," Wagner said, which is why he is confident she is a contender to win in London.

Chepkumba and Kimaiyo are employed by the Kenyan Post Office — the place to work if you want to develop from a promising runner into a successful one. "If they represent the company in events at home, they are given leave to compete in Europe," Wagner said. Kimaiyo brings a best half-

marathon time of 69min 13sec to her first marathon, quick enough to indicate that "maybe", as she put it, she has a chance of winning. She has left her husband at home in Nairobi in charge of their two children. "This is my part-time job and I can do it because of the understanding of my husband," she said. "He realises that, when I run, it benefits the whole family. My husband encourages me, which is why I continue working hard in training."

Kimaiyo and Chepkumba, both from the Rift Valley, are close friends and, to begin with at least, they will stick close to each other tomorrow. Kimaiyo will use her compatriot's greater experience to measure her pace. "We used to believe that only the men could run fast," Kimaiyo said. Tomorrow, London will see for itself how times have changed.

IN BRIEF

Hickeys at home beat Piggotts to win final

MICHAEL HICKEY and his son, Mark, won the Father and Son golf tournament at their home club, West Hill, Surrey, yesterday. They beat the Piggotts, of Littlehampton and Perivale, in the final by two and one, having removed the strong favourites, Robbie and Mark James, of Walton Heath, in the semi-finals.

Three up at the 6th against the Piggotts, who were conceding four shots, the Hickeys fell away badly around the turn. Then Michael Hickey steered the ship by winning the 13th and halving the 14th. Thereafter it was thrust and counter-thrust and three sterling halves in par figures saw the Hickeys home.

Calzaghe test

Boxing: Joe Calzaghe defends his British super-middleweight title against Mark Delaney, of West Ham, at Brentwood tonight. Calzaghe, 24, from Newbridge, Gwent, is unbeaten as a professional, but his first 15 opponents did not test him greatly. He was less impressive, despite beating Stephen Wilson to win the British title.

Delaney, 24, the World Boxing Organisation intercontinental champion, also has an unbeaten record, having won all his 21 contests.

Double trouble

Badminton: Joanne Wright and Julie Bradbury lost 15-12, 10-15, 15-4 to the Danish No 3 seeds, Marlene Thorstsen and Lisbet Stuer-Lauridsen, in the semi-finals of the European championship yesterday, casting doubt on their prospects for a medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Bradbury and Simon Archer, seeded to win the mixed doubles title, then lost the final 18-16, 15-2 to the Danish No 2 seeds, Michael Sogaard and Rikke Olsen.

Arsenal entertain!

Football: Arsenal Ladies entertain Wolves today and Villa Aztecs tomorrow hoping to consolidate their position in second place behind Doncaster Belles in the national league. Wolves are searching for their first point of the season, while Villa need to win and hope Ilkstone Town gain no points from their next two games if they, too, are to avoid relegation.



Maynard pulls to the boundary during his century at Fenner's yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

West Indies pace floors New Zealand

WEST Indies had much the better of the opening morning of the first Test match in Bridgetown yesterday, reducing the visitors to 96 for five by lunch.

New Zealand, who were six for three after half an hour, enjoyed something of a recovery thanks to an aggressive fourth-wicket stand of 80 between Nathan Astle and Adam Parore, before Patterson Thompson, making his Test debut on his home ground, took two quick wickets.

Put in to bat, New Zealand lost both openers with the score on two. Curly Ambrose

made the breakthrough, removing Craig Spearman without scoring by way of a wicketkeeper's catch. Four balls later, Ambrose's new-ball partner, Courtney Walsh, struck Roger Twose, the former Warwickshire batsman, was caught by Robert Samuels, the other newcomer in the West Indies side, at third slip for two.

In his next over, Walsh sent back the dangerous Stephen Fleming. The 23-year-old left-hander's flick off his pads picked out Chanderpaul around the corner at backward short leg.

Astle was the principal ag-

gressor as New Zealand fought back, taking particularly to the bowling of the burly Thompson. Astle, who had been hit on the chin in the opening match of the tour by the fast bowler, lashed him for four fours in his opening over.

Thompson, who delivered 12 no-balls all told, was rested after his first two overs had cost 25 runs.

But it was the 24-year-old Bajan who broke the partnership. Switched to the South End, Thompson forced Astle to edge to the wicketkeeper. Astle made 54, his highest Test score. He was at the crease for an hour

and 11 minutes, faced 52 balls and hit ten fours.

In the same over, Thompson also removed Chris Harris for nought. Harris was unlucky to be given out as the ball seemed to hit his forearm rather than the bat or gloves on its way through to Brian Lara at first slip.

Parore was unbeaten with 23 at the break, having been in for just over an hour and a half. He had hit five fours and faced 59 balls. Walsh's two wickets came at a cost of ten runs from seven overs. Thompson, by contrast, had conceded 39 runs from his four overs.

G Kristen c/v	15
A C Hudson c Achamdin b Smith	0
D J Culman b Prasad	2
P J Symcox c Adeya b Raw	61
N V Raghuraman c/v	25
D N Crookes c Rathore b Kumole	26
B M McMillan not out	37
Extras (6 b, 5 w, 16)	21
Total (5 wkt, 50 overs)	287
S M Patel c/v	15
D J Richardson c/v	10
P Prakash c/v	10
J S Virender not out	10
Fall of WICKETS: 1-5, 2-20, 3-115, 4-175, 5-227	
BOWLING: Samson 10-1-1-1; Prasad 10-5; 2, Raju 9-0-7-1; Jades 4-0-18-0	
INDIA	
V S Rathore c Richardson b Matthews	23
S R Tendulkar run out	57
A Kumble run out	10
A Kumble lbw b Matthews	1
S V Manjrekar run out	41
J A Chandrasekaran c/v	39
A J Jayaram c/v	1
J Symcox c/v	1
D N Crookes c/v	1
B M McMillan not out	5
Extras (6 b, 5 w, 16)	21
Total (5 wkt, 50 overs)	287
Fall of WICKETS: 1-59, 2-78, 3-112, 4-130, 5-204, 6-208, 7-209, 8-243, 9-249	
BOWLING: de Villiers 10-0-4-2; Pollock 10-0; 4-1; Symcox 8-0-23-0; Croke 4-0-23-1	
Man of the match and tournament: G Kirsten, B C Cooley (Sri Lanka) and M J Kitchen (England)	

The Times cricket game returns this summer in an exciting new format and with a first prize of £10,000. Full details of how to play Interactive Team Cricket will be published in a 16-page guide on Monday. Make sure of your copy of The Times, the paper for cricket.

Marathon man juggles many records

This column has never failed to salute great men and women when it comes across them, and so let us celebrate this week the amazing Terry Cole, perhaps the most remarkable man that Walthamstow has produced. Cole, 37, runs in the Flora London Marathon tomorrow, but so common a form of madness as mere running is not for Cole. Cole's is a high and lonely destiny. He is seeking to break the world record of 3hr 22min 58sec.

You may argue that the world best for a marathon is actually 2hr 06min 50sec, but that is the record for men of small ambition who merely run all the way. Cole has his sights on the world marathon three-ball juggling record, which is held by a Jamaican, Asherita Foreman.

Breaking a world record will not be a new departure for Cole. He already holds four of them. He is the world record-holder for balancing pint beer glasses on his chin — 50 of them. He holds the world record for balancing (slightly sycophantically, I thought) copies of the *Guinness Book of Records* on his chin, with 28. He has the world record for one-arm press-ups, this being 8,335 in five hours, all on his right arm. Finally, he has the world record for steps onto a 16-inch bench, with 2,362.

SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

training for tomorrow includes 11 hours and four minutes of continuous three-ball juggling without dropping one. Oh, and he once dribbled a basketball for 90 miles, but I do not think that was a record attempt; that was just something you do in your spare time.

Reds alert

Marge Schott, old friend of this column and owner of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team, has been at it again. An umpire died during the Reds' first home game of the season. The game was stopped at once, the supporters went home. Schott went on record as blaming the press for the cancellation and saying that she "felt cheated". After inevitable outrage at this, Schott made amends the following day by walking onto the field — naturally with her St Bernard, Schottie II — to apologise just as the first pitch was about to be thrown. Once more, sensibilities were outraged. The woman has a

only for the person named. Any unauthorised dissemination or disclosure of its contents or copying of this fax and the use or disclosure of its contents is strictly prohibited. Please notify immediately by telephone if this fax has been sent to you in error." Oot er.

Risky business

A press release reached me from the British Police Rugby League team, which is to tour Australia in June and take part in the police World Cup final in Sydney. I pass on this information at considerable personal risk, but I am like that. For the release concludes: "The information contained in this fax is confidential and intended for the person named. Any unauthorised dissemination or disclosure of its contents or copying of this fax and the use or disclosure of its contents is strictly prohibited. Please notify immediately by telephone if this fax has been sent to you in error." Oot er.

Pitch battle

More news from the lawcourts of the United States, where Franz Kafka walks ever more boldly through the world of sport. Diane Hearn, of Pace, Florida, is suing Terry Pendleton, the baseball player, a hitter formerly with the Atlanta Braves, now with the Florida Marlins, for \$50,000 (about £33,300). She claims that when the Braves were playing at Philadelphia in 1993, Pendleton threw a ball into the stands, a routine goodwill gesture. The ball landed under Hearn's seat. In the scramble for the ball, she claims that she suffered "multiple contusions about the head, body, back and limbs; multiple internal and external injuries to the back and neck resulting in injuries to muscles, nerves, discs, bones and ligaments". She is also suing the Braves. Her husband is suing as well, on the grounds that he has been "deprived of the love, affection and consortium of his wife". I will never again

reports that a football club is to be bought by "a consortium".

Woman rules

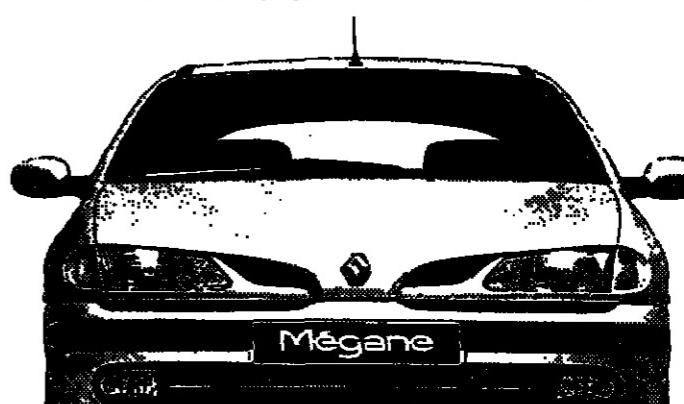
Australia has been split down the middle. A woman — you know, not a *bloke* — has been appointed to a disciplinary tribunal of the sport of Australian Rules Football. Australia is a bit funny about women, and about women in sport — like all other countries — so naturally the place is in a state of outrage. The woman in question is Elaine Canty, who will be the only woman on the nine-person panel; from this, judges for disciplinary matters are selected in threes. "I could use all the clichés about obstetricians not having broken the law," Canty said. She added that it was "a terrific gesture" and that she could smell "a token tart's job from a mile off".

Others were less sanguine. Gareth Andrews, a former player with mighty Geelong, summed matters up with all the acuteness of which an Aussie Rules footballer is capable. "I suspect that women love the rawness. They love the manliness. They love the physicality... they talk about it the next day just as much as the blokes do — maybe more. They love being outsiders looking in."

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THE NEW RENAULT MÉGANE
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Cecil's filly passes Newbury trial with flying colours

Bosra Sham tightens classic grip

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

BOSRA SHAM came through where Alshaar faltered when she ran away with the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury yesterday to strengthen her grip on the 1,000 Guineas.

It was a thoroughly professional performance from Bosra Sham, who ensured she will arrive at Newmarket as the odds-on favourite for the fourth time in as many career outings. She has now won her races by a combined total of 13 lengths, and it will take an exceptional horse to lower her colours in the Fillies' classic on May 5.

No horse has yet finished within 3½ lengths of her, and none looked likely to yesterday from the moment Pat Eddery shook her from her lethargy to dismiss her nearest pursuer, the 66-1 chance Keepers Dawn, by six lengths. Her opponents were an unexcep-

tional lot: Najiya, her principal opponent, pulled her way out of contention. But that aside, it was impossible to fault Bosra Sham.

Remarkably, Henry Cecil, her trainer, suggested Bosra Sham was some way from her peak. "She'll be a lot better for the race," he said. "She hasn't quite come in her coat. I've been trying to hold it through the cold weather and she should look very well come the Guineas."

Yet Cecil, ever the realist, warned that the outcome was not a formality. "Classic races take a lot of winning. We must hope the luck goes our way, but I wouldn't swap her for anything else in the race."

If Cecil recognised the pitfalls, Eddery's enthusiasm was more obvious. The 1,000 Guineas is a peculiar omission from Eddery's catalogue of major successes, but the jockey clearly feels Bosra

Sham will rectify matters. "This is the best chance I've had of winning the race," he said. "I can't find a chink in her armour and the more I ride her, the more I like her."

So confident is Eddery that he dismissed the threat of Blue Duster in two memorable

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CLAN BEN
(3.30 Newbury)

Next best: Penny A Day
(4.40 Ayr)

sentences. "Blue Duster is very fast but I'd be confident beating her over six furlongs. Mine has so much speed yet she is ideally suited by a mile." Indeed, just about the only glimmer afforded connections of Bosra Sham's opponents is that the filly, a full-sister to the

French classic winner, Hector Protector, has excelled on easy ground.

Cecil is unperturbed by the likely fast surface at Newmarket. And Bosra Sham's action does not highlight any cause for concern — she won her maiden on good to firm ground. Although she has it to prove under such conditions, she is unquestionably the one to beat.

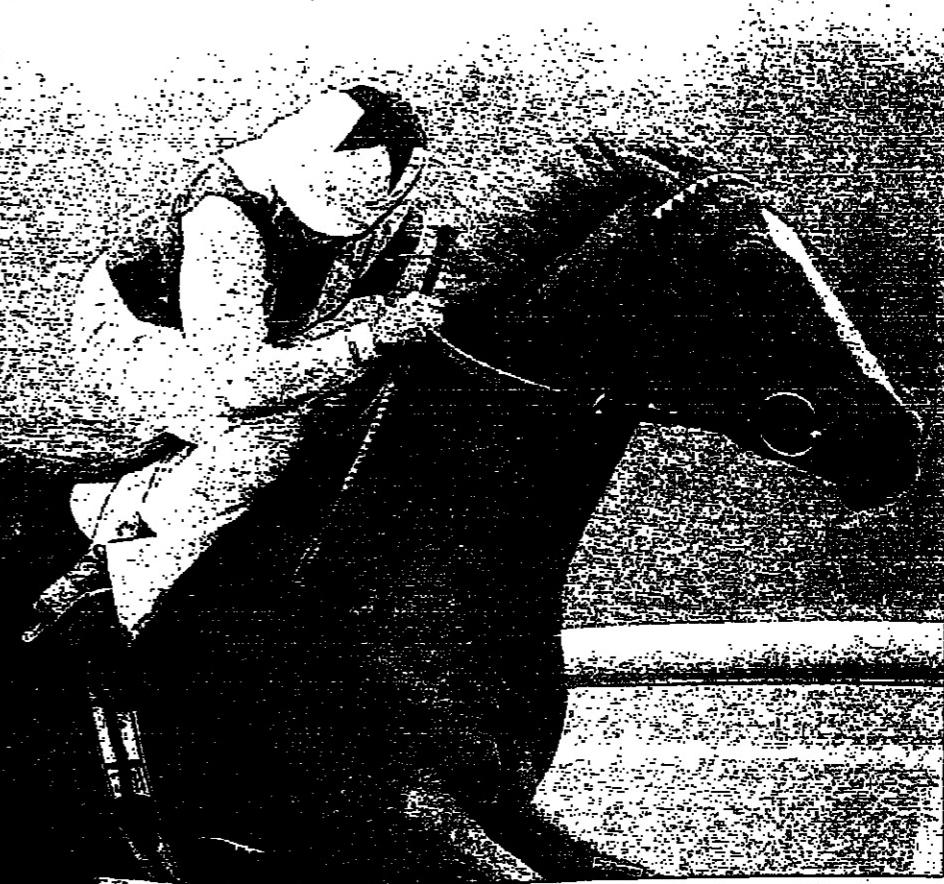
Bosra Sham, at 530,000 guineas the top-priced yearling sold in Europe in 1994, looks almost certain to miss the Oaks and has been scratched from the betting by William Hill, although Eddery believes Bosra Sham's relaxed attitude may help her get further than a mile.

Bosra Sham's victory consolidated Cecil's gains at the Craven meeting at Newmarket earlier in the week. But the master of Warren Place suffered a reversal in the Peter

Smith Memorial Maiden Stakes for three-year-olds when his Set Adrift, backed down to favouritism, was emphatically beaten by Air Quest, a fellow debutant, trained by Roger Charlton.

Charlton landed this race six years ago with Air Quest's full-brother, Quest For Fame, who, of course, went on to triumph in the Derby. But the trainer talked down such prospects for Air Quest, a taller, less mature specimen than his illustrious relation. This rain-soaked ground proved ideal for Air Quest who looks a resolute galloper.

Earlier, Peter Chapple-Hyam introduced a precocious juvenile in the shape of Daylight in Dubai, who showed too much resolution for Grannys Pet in the closing stages of the Beckenham Maiden Stakes. Owned by Peter Savill, Daylight in Dubai is bound for Royal Ascot.



Eddery can afford to look over his shoulder as Bosra Sham cruises home at Newbury.

Bright Water is clear choice

NEWBURY



TODAY'S RACES
ON TELEVISION

2.00: Henry Cecil has won previous runnings of this race with Old Vic and Belmeze and it will be something of a surprise if Bright Water does not oblige for the in-form trainer. Well regarded at home, he produced high-level maiden form when winning his only start last term and the Derby entrant should relish this trip. Mystic Knight is also entered for the Epsom classic and looks more of a threat than Maiden Castle.

2.30: The ground will be perfect for Moonax and the 1994 St Leger winner has won first time out for the past two seasons. Commer, narrowly defeated in the September Stakes at Kempton, looks set for another good season.

3.00: Woodborough, just below the very best last year and beaten a neck by Danehill Dancer in Ireland, has delighted Peter Chapple-Hyam with his work, but in a tricky heat I just prefer Tagula. Winner of the group one Prix Morny last year, he was below his best after a rushed preparation for the Dewhurst and can show that form to be wrong today.

3.30: A low draw is invariably an advantage here and Clan Ben stands out in stall six. Twice a winner over a mile last term, he was considered good enough by Cecil to run in listed company on his final start last term. This is only the seventh race of his career so there should be further improvement to come. Wilmcuma is fairly treated but normally needs his first few runs and Jawaal looks a bigger threat.

AYR

CHANNEL 4

2.55: Addington Boy successfully stepped up in class to take the Mildmay Novices' Chase at Aintree last time. While he drops back in trip,

RICHARD EVANS

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

2.00 Mystic Knight
2.30 Murjala
3.00 Danehill Dancer
3.30 WILCUMA (nap)

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Bright Water.
3.00 Danehill Dancer. 3.30 PHANTOM QUEST (nap).

2.00 ARLINGTON INTERNATIONAL RACECOURSE CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O) £7,724. 1m 3f (5 runners)

101 (4) 6521 - FLYING VENGEANCE (GB) (Highgate Thoroughbreds) 3 years 9-1 - Paul Eddery
102 (2) 1 - BRIGHT WATER (7F) (A) (Addito) H 8c 8-11 - Paul Eddery
103 (11) 1 - HIGH BAROQUE (8F) (A) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92
104 (10) 1 - DAYLIGHT (7F) (A) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92
105 (1) 6311 - MYSTIC KNIGHT (GB) (Lode Operator) R Charles 8-13 - T. Scott 95
BETTING: 10-11 Bright Water. 6-1 Maiden Castle. 6-1 Flyche. 6-1 Mystic Knight.

1995: POSSESSIONS 8-13 1st Open (16-1) P Cole 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

FLYING VENGEANCE best Domestic short-head in consecutive race of Lester (1m 3f, good). BRIGHT WATER best Ashraha, 3rd in maiden at Yarmouth (1m, firm). HIGH BAROQUE best in 12-race history at Newmarket (1m, good). MYSTIC KNIGHT best in 12-race history at Newmarket (1m, good).

106 (1) 6520 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

107 (1) 6521 - MYSTIC KNIGHT (GB) (Lode Operator) R Charles 8-13 - T. Scott 95

BETTING: 10-11 Bright Water. 6-1 Maiden Castle. 6-1 Flyche. 6-1 Mystic Knight.

1995: STRATEGIC CHOICE 4-11 1st Open (16-1) P Cole 8 ran

108 (1) 6522 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

109 (1) 6523 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

110 (1) 6524 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

111 (1) 6525 - FLYING VENGEANCE (GB) (Highgate Thoroughbreds) 3 years 9-1 - Paul Eddery

112 (1) 6526 - MYSTIC KNIGHT (GB) (Lode Operator) R Charles 8-13 - T. Scott 95

113 (1) 6527 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

114 (1) 6528 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

115 (1) 6529 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

116 (1) 6530 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

117 (1) 6531 - FLYING VENGEANCE (GB) (Highgate Thoroughbreds) 3 years 9-1 - Paul Eddery

118 (1) 6532 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

119 (1) 6533 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

120 (1) 6534 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

121 (1) 6535 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

122 (1) 6536 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

123 (1) 6537 - FLYING VENGEANCE (GB) (Highgate Thoroughbreds) 3 years 9-1 - Paul Eddery

124 (1) 6538 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

125 (1) 6539 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

126 (1) 6540 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

127 (1) 6541 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

128 (1) 6542 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

129 (1) 6543 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

130 (1) 6544 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

131 (1) 6545 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

132 (1) 6546 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

133 (1) 6547 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

134 (1) 6548 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

135 (1) 6549 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

136 (1) 6550 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

137 (1) 6551 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

138 (1) 6552 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

139 (1) 6553 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

140 (1) 6554 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

141 (1) 6555 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

142 (1) 6556 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

143 (1) 6557 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

144 (1) 6558 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

145 (1) 6559 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

146 (1) 6560 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

147 (1) 6561 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

148 (1) 6562 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

149 (1) 6563 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

150 (1) 6564 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

151 (1) 6565 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

152 (1) 6566 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

153 (1) 6567 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

154 (1) 6568 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

155 (1) 6569 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

156 (1) 6570 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

157 (1) 6571 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

158 (1) 6572 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

159 (1) 6573 - BRIGHT WATER (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

160 (1) 6574 - DAYLIGHT (GB) (Addito) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 - J. Rose 92

161 (1) 6575 - HIGH BAROQUE (GB)

Saturday portrait: Jimmy White, by Simon Barnes

Sublime talent who has incurred substantial out-of-pocket expenses

Claim to fame: I once belonged to the same snooker club as Jimmy White. No, I did not give him five blacks start and take him on for a monkey frame. I nodded to him when I saw him, which was most days. I was a south London journo; he was a south London story.

"Allo, Jimmy."

"Allo, mate."

Always terrifically amiable; always something completely remote about him. Even then, in a way, he seemed quite untouchable. And he was but 14. I would go in to play a quick frame and miss a few reds, always given thank the Lord, a table right at the back of the room. It was always just after work, down at the Pot Black club a few minutes walk from Clapham Junction. White would be there with a group round table one, where he had been all day. He should have been at the Ernest Bevin comprehensive, but there he was, learning things that school could not teach him.

How to stay cool in a money match: how to make machine-gun breaks that snap an opponent's nerve like a stick of barley sugar; how to pocket balls with a crash that might dent the brass rail behind the pocket; how to trick the next shot with gossamer delicacy. Surrounded by people, for even then he had his hangers-on, but also, always quite alone.

Black hair and a face of death pallor; nothing has changed much there. He had a transplant for the hair when it got thin, but there is nothing you can do about the pallor. I doubt if he has ever seen the sun. A creature of the dark, with a slightly wolfish grin.

And always that sense of not quite being there, lost in a mental universe of colliding spheres. Perhaps it was the sheer beauty of his game that entranced him. Many people still insist that he is the finest snooker player that ever drew breath.

Ball for ball, break for break, frame for frame, they are probably right. But not championship for championship. People say that Alex Higgins was a waster of his

colossal gifts, but Higgins won the world championship twice.

White — how many people would include the word also here? — has not won it once. Between 1990 and 1994 he lost the final of the world championship every year. Old snooker hands still talk about black he missed against Stephen Hendry, a miss that allowed Hendry the implacable to march on.

"I don't want to be disrespectful to my fellow players," White once said, "but it is a joke how I keep losing to so many mugs." I don't want to be disrespectful to Jimmy White — no one does — but winning is not really his greatest talent. Snooker is. He wins frames, not games; he wins games, not championships. He has won only nine world-ranking events in his

'Many people still insist that he is the finest snooker player that ever drew breath'

career — this compared with 28 by Steve Davis, 24 by Hendry.

The last time he won one was in 1992, when he won the United Kingdom championship. White is living out the story of a sharp decline from a peak of under-achievement. He is now trembling on the very edge of the top 16 in the world. Membership of that charmed circle means that you are seeded in competition: you do not need Hendry in the first round.

White needs to win at the world championship, which begins today at the Crucible in Sheffield. No, not win the tournament, just win his first round match; and that looks problem enough. It takes place on Wednesday and Thursday. He plays a chap called Euan Henderson. Only if he wins can White be sure of staying in the elite next season.

It is a personal battle of some magnitude. And naturally, Hendry has beaten him before. Most people have, though White has never been known to offer an excuse. "My opponent played great." That has always been his way.

A vignette of the recent snooker life of Jimmy White: In February this year, White is playing an exhibition with John Virgo in Leicester. Exhibitions have rather gone out of fashion, but there is still endless demand for White. And in seven frames, he knocked off two 147 breaks. Willie Thorne, who has seen a fair amount of snooker in his time, came out wagging his cue ball of a head and muttering "fantastic, fantastic."

But it does not seem to happen in matches these days. White is a bit like the bowler who is unplayable in the nets but, as soon as he gets on the pitch, he cannot bowl a hoop down a hill. It is not precisely the yips, just a suicidal tendency every now and then to miss a ball that even Barnes could pot. And that is a truly fatal deficiency.

But even in disaster, he is loved. Everyone loves White. He has been called snooker's Barry Manilow, because of the love he inspires among housewives. But Jack-the-lads love him just as well. The temptation to pair him with Higgins is overwhelming, and must be resisted at all costs. Higgins is a disaster area in many ways, but he has those two world championships. And it is hard in snooker to find a good word for anything about Higgins except his mostly extinguished talent. White is as well loved as ever.

Bruce is not a straightforward subject with either man. But where Higgins has always been a career drinker, White has been a dilettante, tending to go on the odd binge when he cannot play big-time snooker. It has still caused him problems enough. He got caught driving four times over the limit, and did 120 hours of community service as a result. He has made for a somewhat turbulent marriage with Maureen, a girl he met (where else?) in a fish and chip shop in Tooting during his Pot Black snooker club days.

He has four daughters, to whom



he is devoted; the youngest is called Breeze. He has the same concentration in money matters as he does in crucial frames of snooker — not quite enough. He has won more than £3 million in prize-money, but never seems quite as well-off as he should be, though he does have a stockbroker-style house in Surrey.

Last year he had a testicle removed when he had cancer in that particularly alarming place. He met that emergency with frank terror and brave jokes. As ever, he handled things with a certain sheepish panache.

White is always seen as a bad lad without an ounce of harm in him. His respect for the game he plays borders on the religious. He calls his own foul — a minute feathering of the cue ball, an inadvertent nudge with the waistcoat. Failure to do so would be a kind of blasphemy to him.

I once had breakfast with him the morning after he had spent the evening with Higgins. Unable to face tea, he blindly requested a glass of water and winced when he drank from it. My whole being responded in sympathy. But, even in extremis, he was courteous, pleasant, charming.

I always remember the best snooker I ever saw in my life. I went to the Crucible for the second day of the final in 1984. I almost

did not bother. White began it 12-4 down to Davis. But round about midnight on that second day, the match was at last over and Davis all but speechless with admiration. He had been outplayed. "Jimmy played his balls out," Davis said at last. For Davis could not play like that to save his life, and he knew it and he acknowledged it.

Davis won, of course, 18-16. Yes. White lost again. But gloriously, always gloriously.

Title run means the world to Hendry

By PHIL YATES

RECENT form aside, there is an overwhelming body of evidence which supports the theory that, on May 6, Stephen Hendry will equal the modern record of six Embassy world snooker championship titles jointly held by Ray Reardon and Steve Davis.

Today, Hendry begins his attempt to lift the game's most coveted trophy for the fifth year in succession. If, as expected, he comfortably negotiates the first round by defeating Jason Ferguson, of Mansfield, Hendry will extend his unbeaten run of matches at the Crucible, Sheffield, to 21 matches.

It is an uninterrupted spell of dominance that has eclipsed the efforts of Davis, who, by winning the championship in 1987, 1988 and 1989 and reaching the semi-finals in 1990, set the former record with 18 consecutive victories.

Even though Hendry turned professional seven years after Davis, his great rival, he is top of many statistical career lists. He has compiled 338 century breaks in competition, 92 more than Davis, and, with the £200,000 first prize from the championship this year, the Scot would carry his total tournament earnings to £4,824,175.

Not for the first time, Hendry arrives at the Crucible saddled with a string of surprising defeats in the second half of the season. Crucially, though, these have been the result of an inspired performance from his opponents and/or a lack of concentration and motivation on his part.

During his many exhaustive practice sessions at Spencers, Stirling, Hendry has continued to strike the ball with great authority and regards early elimination from the International Open, European Open, Irish Masters and British Open as irritating rather than worrying.

These failures disguise the fact that the 1995-96 campaign has been another memorable one for Hendry, during which three-quarters of his personal grand slam has already been achieved. In September, Hendry beat Peter Ebdon 9-5 to win the Regal Scottish Masters on home soil; two months later, Ebdon was again his victim, this time by 10-3, in the final of the United Kingdom championship; and,

McManus in the first round of the event last year.

Higgins, 20, who by capturing the title would also supersede Hendry as the youngest winner in the 69-year history of the championship, has the level-headed nature required to meet the particular demands of the Crucible — the need to perform at or near optimum efficiency for 17 days under ever-increasing pressure.

That does not apply to O'Sullivan, another 20-year-old who though more mature than Higgins in many respects off the table, refuses to abandon the cavalier tendencies that have undermined the chances of many naturally talented players at Sheffield. O'Sullivan can be outstanding for a session or two but, at some point, encounters a bad patch in which he struggles to rise above mediocrity.

Ebdon, McManus, Ken Doherty and John Parrott, the 1991 world and United Kingdom champion who has won the Thailand Classic and European Open this season, all have the credentials to press Hendry, but Davis and Jimmy White are unlikely to do so.

Even though his safety remains in a league of its own, Davis has not added to his 70 career titles since the Regal Welsh Open of January 1995 and has reached the quarter-finals of only one of the nine ranking tournaments contested this season.

White, the championship's perennial nearly-man, having tasted defeat in six finals, has slumped to such an extent that he must beat Euan Henderson, son of Glenrothes, in the opening round merely to ensure his continued occupancy of a place in the top 16 next season. The repeated insistence from White that, in practice and on the exhibition circuit, he is playing as well as ever points to growing anxiety and diminishing confidence as the causes of his slide.

He has failed to win an event of any description since the 1993 Matchroom League and one has to go back to the 1992 United Kingdom championship to unearth his last success in a ranking event. It is a barren spell that puts Hendry's minor troubles over the past couple of months into perspective.



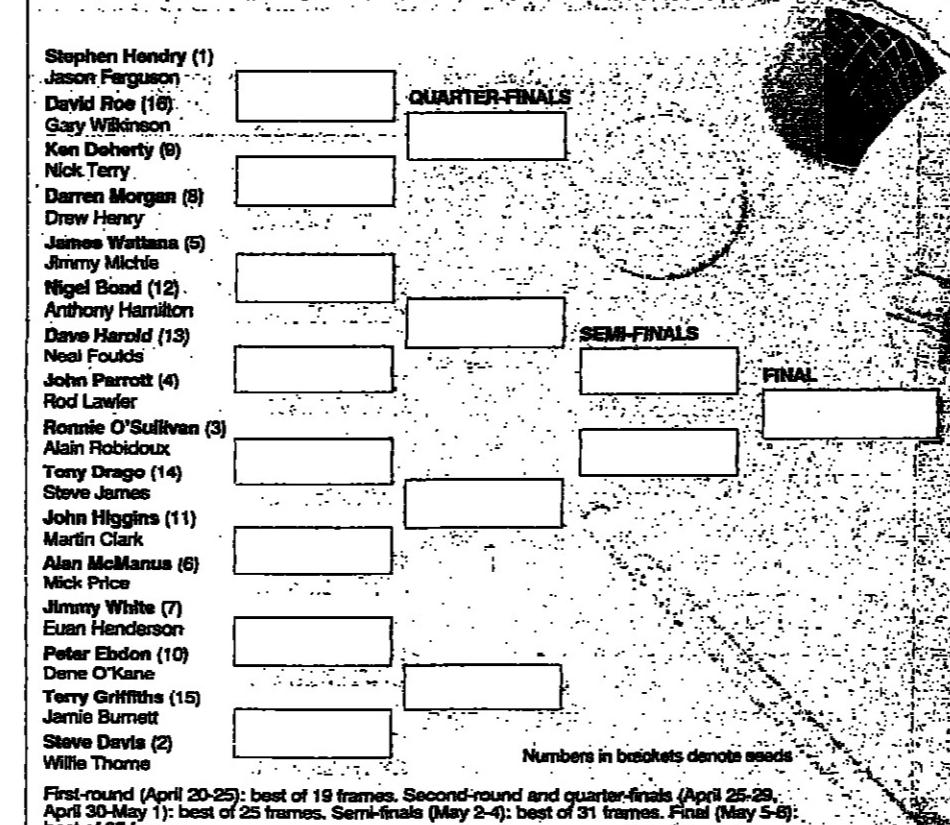
Henderson: dominance

not only for the title, but for his long-held status as world No 1.

Having won the German Open and International Open and figured in the finals of the Grand Prix and British Open, John Higgins finds himself breathing down Hendry's neck. The 975 ranking-points deficit faced by Higgins means that he only has to win one more match than Hendry at Sheffield to replace him in the No 1 position.

An all-Scottish final between the two is a distinct possibility even though Higgins, on his only previous appearance at the Crucible, was beaten 10-3 by

EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW



First-round (April 20-25): best of 19 frames. Second-round and quarter-finals (April 25-29, April 30-May 1): best of 25 frames. Semi-finals (May 2-4): best of 31 frames. Final (May 5-6): best of 35 frames.

Prize money this year totals £1.2 million. Champion £200,000. Runner-up £120,000. Losing semi-finalists £80,000. Losing quarter-finalists £30,000. Second round losers £18,000. First round losers £9,000. Highest break £17,000.

Bond targeted by Musketeer

GIGANT-KILLERS at the Crucible have been in short supply in recent years, but Anthony Hamilton has the potential to fill that role by beating Nigel Bond, the winner of the British Open two weeks ago, in their first-round match, which starts on Monday (Phil Yates writes).

Hamilton, a 24-year-old from Nottingham, completed a notable double last summer by winning the Australian Open and Australian Masters but has yet to display such form under the scrutiny of the television cameras and against the leading exponents of the game.

In appearance, Hamilton is unconventional. He arrived at the Thailand Classic with his eyebrow pierced, his taste in fashion leans towards grunge and he briefly earned the nickname D'Artagnan when sporting a beard that gave him the look of a Musketeer. He is, however, completely

him to climb the world-ranking ladder steadily since he joined the professional ranks in 1991. His great strength, though, is break-building.

Bond, who beat John Higgins 9-8 on the black in the final of the British Open, could be vulnerable to self-imposed pressure. Having triumphed in Plymouth and reached the final at the Crucible 12 months ago, he will have high expectations. In addition, overcoming Hamilton would go a long way to securing his place in the European Open — have not eroded Bond's resolve. At 25, he is a long way removed from the pony-tailed rookie who astoundingly beat Steve Davis 10-4 in the first round of the 1992 world championship.

Bond, who readily admits he is a slow starter, has also practised with Hamilton on numerous occasions. Consequently, he knows his opponent's capabilities and will therefore not possess the same edge of perceived superiority displayed by the majority of his fellow seeds.

Ebdon: remains frustrated

sary mental steel to survive the 17-day marathon of the mind which is the world championship. It remains to be seen whether the burden of so many recent disappointments will weigh Ebdon down or fuel his already raging competitive fire.

Like all of his fellow competitors, Ebdon must realise the importance of playing to his strengths. He is undoubtedly at his best when adopting an attacking philosophy but, of late, he has proceeded at a progressively slower pace. Elimination of mistake-inducing haste is one thing, compromising your natural style for the sake of conservatism is another.

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Ebdon: remains frustrated

Scot one stroke behind leaders

Montgomerie well positioned for first American win

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN HILTON HEAD ISLAND

THE tournament this week after a Major championship inevitably throws up players who have run into form a few days later than they would have wished. For example, what would Vijay Singh have given for the 63 he had in a pro-am last Wednesday to replace the 82 with which he finished in the Masters last Sunday?

Colin Montgomerie is another case in point. Having started the MCI Classic here with a comfortable 69, he added a 66 to it yesterday, playing as well as he knows he can. His form now is in marked contrast to the 75s he had in his third and fourth rounds at Augusta.

Montgomerie's dip in form in the first Major championship of the year is all the more puzzling because he had been playing so well before the Masters and is clearly playing just as well now. He came second in the The Players' Championship at Jacksonville last month and now, at seven under par, is just one stroke behind Jeff Sluman and Tom Watson, the leaders here after 36 holes.

Montgomerie's elusive first victory in the United States cannot be long delayed and if there is one course on which

he would predict it would come, it is the Harbour Town Links. "This course is as right for me as any," Montgomerie said. Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus designed it several decades ago to discover the game's best shot-makers, men who are straight from the tee and can move the ball from right to left, and left to right as well.

Dye designed a few bunkers with railway sleepers — what they call railroad ties over here — supporting the face and he and Nicklaus, intent upon devilry, gave the holes some of the smallest greens ever seen on a championship course.



Norman: previous winner

Material gains no big deal to Carter

FROM MEL WEBB IN CANNES

NICK FALDO might have three green Masters jackets — last David Carter had two of them by the time he was 21. The only difference is that Carter, who set a new course record in the second round of the Cannes Open here yesterday, subsequently had his golfing mementoes purloined, whereas Faldo's collection is still in his locker at Augusta National.

Carter, a pencil-slim and modest 23-year-old, told the tale of sartorial trophies gained and lost after a 62 at Royal Mougins that beat the previous course record by two shots. His total of 132, ten under par, gave him a one-stroke lead over Padraig Harrington with Raymond Russell a further shot behind and Ignacio Garrido fourth on seven under.

South African-born to British parents, Carter was but a golfing babe when he played in a mini-Masters event at Kyalami, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, his home town, and was presented with a jacket by none other than Bobby Locke. The next year he went back and won another, only to lose both when his parents' house was burgled.

Far from discouraging him from ever wanting to watch people don green jackets again, Carter said that he was glued to the television last weekend. Greg Norman's dis-

integration was compulsory viewing, he said. "There were great lessons to be learnt there," he said. "It showed what pressure can do to even the greatest players."

There was no question of collapse or anything like it as Carter went about his business, producing the best round of his life. He had five birdies going out and another five returning to the clubhouse with only one bogey.

He went into a bunker at the last, but had he managed to hole his sand shot for an eagle he would have been in with 60, a feat performed only seven times in the history of the PGA European Tour.

The fact that he did not, then missed a curly ten-foot putt, did little to take the gloss off a remarkable performance.

Did he expect to shoot 62, somebody asked. "You don't expect to shoot 62," he said. "And if you do, then you definitely won't. No, it came as a nice surprise."

These days Carter plays out of Handley Wood Driving Range, near Chesterfield, which is owned by Bryan, his father, who taught his son the game and who now plays on the PGA European Seniors Tour. Carter Sr it was who helped to iron out a glitch that appeared in his son's swing during the winter. He seems to have done his job to perfection.

CRICKET

Lancashire v Yorkshire

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of three) Yorkshire, who had a 14-run lead, were 46 runs behind Lancashire

LANCASHIRE First Innings

S P Trott c Batsley b Wharf 4

M A Atherton c Batsley b Wharf 3

N J Steele c Batsley b Morris 5

J D Bairstow c Morris b Wharf 2

A Flintoff c Morris b Wharf 2

J W K Hegg c Batsley b Wharf 2

J D Austin c Morris b Wharf 2

J W K Hegg c Wharf b Morris 88

G Yates c Wharf b Wharf 5

J W Green c Wharf b Wharf 5

K Keedy not out 12

Total 15-2-172 212

FALL OF WICKETS 1-7, 2-14, 3-58, 4-63, 5-

63, 6-67, 7-103, 8-122, 9-132, 10-133, 11-151, 12-150, 13-151, 14-150, 15-151, 16-152, 17-153, 18-154, 19-155, 20-156, 21-157, 22-158, 23-159, 24-160, 25-161, 26-162, 27-163, 28-164, 29-165, 30-166, 31-167, 32-168, 33-169, 34-170, 35-171, 36-172, 37-173, 38-174, 39-175, 40-176, 41-177, 42-178, 43-179, 44-180, 45-181, 46-182, 47-183, 48-184, 49-185, 50-186, 51-187, 52-188, 53-189, 54-190, 55-191, 56-192, 57-193, 58-194, 59-195, 60-196, 61-197, 62-198, 63-199, 64-200, 65-201, 66-202, 67-203, 68-204, 69-205, 70-206, 71-207, 72-208, 73-209, 74-210, 75-211, 76-212, 77-213, 78-214, 79-215, 80-216, 81-217, 82-218, 83-219, 84-220, 85-221, 86-222, 87-223, 88-224, 89-225, 90-226, 91-227, 92-228, 93-229, 94-230, 95-231, 96-232, 97-233, 98-234, 99-235, 100-236, 101-237, 102-238, 103-239, 104-240, 105-241, 106-242, 107-243, 108-244, 109-245, 110-246, 111-247, 112-248, 113-249, 114-250, 115-251, 116-252, 117-253, 118-254, 119-255, 120-256, 121-257, 122-258, 123-259, 124-260, 125-261, 126-262, 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Major extends a helping hand for Yeltsin campaign

FROM JILL SHERMAN IN MOSCOW

JOHN MAJOR last night gave tacit backing to President Yeltsin's re-election campaign after a blunt exchange of views with Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist front-runner.

The Prime Minister had a 30-minute meeting with Mr Zyuganov, the candidate of a broad Left coalition, who leads in polls for what is emerging as a two-horse race in June. Mr Major then went on to meet President Yeltsin, who was hosting the G7 summit on nuclear safety which opened with a state dinner here last night.

At a press briefing after the meetings, Mr Major indicated that Mr Zyuganov did not share Mr Yeltsin's reforming zeal. "He explained what he was about and what he sees as priorities in this country. But self-evidently he doesn't believe that those priorities should concern people elsewhere," Mr Major said. "I underlined to him the importance

tance we attach to the reform programme."

Mr Zyuganov has made it clear that he intends to reverse many of the Russian reforms and would return several enterprises to the state sector.

Mr Major went as far as he could diplomatically to en-

Nuclear safety pact agreed

World leaders are scheduled today to discuss in detail plans to shut dangerous nuclear reactors and make others safer. In particular, the G7 nations have agreed with Ukraine to finance the decommissioning of the two reactors still operating at Chernobyl. Government heads are due to sign an agreement to boost intelligence co-operation and tighten security around fissile materials.

dorse Mr Yeltsin's candidacy. "It is not for anyone to determine who should be the President of Russia. That is a matter for the Russian people and it would be impudent for me to state a preference," he said.

"But we do have a very strong view that the reform programme is very important and we wish to see the reform programme proceed and I think that is a view very widely held right across the world."

In an interview with the local newspaper *Argumenty i Fakty*, Mr Major said: "We have very good working relations with Mr Yeltsin. We have known him for a very long time and we very much admire what he's seeking to do."

"Of course personal relations impact when one knows people. We are prepared to assist, help and work with whomsoever is going to ad-

vance the reform process and that is a matter of greatest importance."

Mr Major underlined this message by announcing a £50 million allocation from Britain's Know How fund set up to help Eastern countries with economic reform. His tacit endorsement will delight Mr

Yeltsin, who is hoping that the Moscow summit will give a big boost to his election campaign.

At their bilateral meeting,

Mr Major also reassured Mr Yeltsin that Nato enlargement would proceed cautiously and slowly. The Russian people feel threatened by the pro-

posed expansion of Nato and have challenged Mr Yeltsin over the issue.

Yesterday Mr Major said that Nato wanted good and close relations with Russia. "I don't think there is any threatening aspect at all about Nato expansion, nor is there any great hurry about it. I think

people are raising concerns that are unreal." Mr Major also told Mr Yeltsin of concern in the West about reports that the violation human rights in Chechnya was increasing.

British officials said the Prime Minister had impressed upon Mr Yeltsin that the violence had to end.

Warning of world water shortage

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE world is running out of fresh water, with more than a fifth of the population facing drought by the middle of the next century, a United Nations-backed report says.

Booming populations, the growth of cities and industries in the developing world, pollution and the demand for food and irrigation schemes mean a minimum of more than 40 countries will have insufficient water supplies, affecting as many as 2.3 billion people.

But the *World Resources* report, published yesterday, gives a warning that the number under threat could be even higher with regional shortages and droughts also likely in countries with more bountiful water resources.

Funded by the UN's development and environment programmes, the World Bank and the World Resources Institute, it claims the key to heading off the crisis is to reduce pollution of underground resources and to use water in agriculture more efficiently.

World Resources: A Guide to the Global Environment 1996-97, Oxford University Press.

Grachev ready to quit over ambush

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

PAVEL GRACHEV, the Russian Defence Minister, offered to resign yesterday after a national outcry erupted over the death of scores of Russian servicemen in an ambush by Chechen separatists.

In a surprise announcement before the Duma, the lower house of parliament, General Grachev, the hawkish mastermind of the disastrous Chechnya campaign, admitted that 53 Russian troops were killed and 52 wounded when their poorly defended convoy came under attack on Tuesday.

"I am ready to resign if deputies consider that I am to blame," the general said. He added that the commander of the infantry regiment, whose men sustained the casualties, had been relieved of his duties.

Although the Duma does not have the power to dismiss the Defence Minister, President Yeltsin does. "The military leadership is to blame and will be held responsible for what has happened," declared the Russian leader between meetings with visiting heads of government of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, said he told Mr Yeltsin that "Russia and the world was waiting for the fighting to end." He reaffirmed that he will do what he can to stop the conflict. Hero Kohl said: "Yeltsin knows his re-election depends on whether or not the fighting stops."

General Grachev did little to endear himself to Mr Yeltsin when he criticised the President's peace initiative launched three weeks ago, which aims at securing a ceasefire and pulling out Russian troops by the end of the year.

"I am not against the peace plan but so far it allows the fighters to concentrate their forces. We should not forget that they are bandits and they should be destroyed," General Grachev told the deputies. "I regret that I have not been able to finish off the rebels."



Grachev: criticised Yeltsin's peace plan

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

EUROPEAN NEWS 15

"Englishwoman Tana" takes on the Right in fight for Senate seat

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

IN A busy market near the Vatican walls Tana de Zulueta canvassed for the Italian Senate, chatting to potential voters with the slight awkwardness of a newcomer to politics.

"I'm not a native Italian, you know," she said to a stallholder standing behind a huge pile of artichokes. "I'm half English and half Spanish."

"Don't worry," said the man, grinning. "I could tell from your accent, but good luck to you. Who knows, you might be able to sort us out where many real Italians have failed."

The sight of an "Anglo Saxon viper", as one right-wing newspaper recently called Signora de Zulueta, campaigning for the Centre Left in an Italian election has raised a few eyebrows. In fact, she has Italian nationality through her husband, a senior figure in the Italian equivalent of the CBI. She also has

ITALIAN ELECTIONS

Spanish nationality; her father is from a noted anti-Franco political family. This time The Olive Tree, led by Romano Prodi, an economics professor, hopes to persuade voters that a combination of former Communists, centrists and left-wing Catholics can be trusted with power. What will they do if they win?

Reduce Berlusconi's power over the media," Signora de Zulueta says without hesitation. "One of the reasons I agreed when Prodi asked me to stand was that I think it's an absolute priority that Italy straightens out the problem of media control. The fact that

CHRISTOPHER WARDE-JONES



Tana de Zulueta drums up support in a Rome market before tomorrow's elections

woman). What made her do it? I feel very strongly about the issues facing this country. I was very supportive two years ago when the centre-left bloc was formed under the name "The Olive Tree". I feel Italy should be presented with two clear alternatives, Centre Left and Centre Right, to avoid constant weak coalitions and instability."

The last elections, in 1994, produced a short-lived centre-right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon. This time The Olive Tree, led by Romano Prodi, an economics professor, hopes to persuade voters that a combination of former Communists, centrists and left-wing Catholics can be trusted with power. What will they do if they win?

Signora de Zulueta is 44, softly spoken, and dresses with understated elegance. As a journalist at work long before the "Clean Hands" anti-corruption judges overturned the old order in 1992, she helped to expose the scandals surrounding corrupt Christian Democratic politicians, the mysterious activities of the P2 Masonic lodge and of Banco Ambrosiano, the "Vatican bank".

She read anthropology and archaeology at Cambridge, after a series of overseas schools (her father worked for the World Health Organisation) and a spell at an English boarding school.

She went to Italy, where her maternal grandparents had retired, became involved in journalism, and met her future husband. In effect, she married Italy. "When I was asked to stand I was very honoured. My previous political activity was confined to writing some position papers for Professor Prodi. I told the selection committee I was Italian by choice, which was a bigger commitment than being Italian by birth. They seemed to like that."

Her opponent is the incumbent senator, Giulio Maceratini, 58, a senior member of the "post-Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale, which evolved from Mussolini's Blackshirts but now claims to be respectfully "right of centre". Signora de Zulueta dismissed his claims to be moderate. "He is to the right of his party," she said, "and it's a marginal seat. He got in with only 42 per cent last time."



THE KEY PLAYERS

SILVIO BERLUSCONI
Aged 59. Leader of Forza Italia. Self-made property magnate. Prime Minister for eight months in 1994, brought verve and entrepreneurial spirit to government but was eventually forced to resign due to corruption charges. Faces trial for alleged bribery of tax officials. Insists he is still the Centre Right's candidate for Prime Minister. Glamorous wife.

UMBERTO BOSSI
Aged 54. From Varese, Lombardy, he separated from Northern League and is a senator since 1987. He is unkempt, unpredictable, often foul-mouthed and demagogic, but also a shrewd tactician who turned the local protest movement into a national force.

MASSIMO D'ALEMO
Aged 47. Leader of the Democrazia dei Popoli (D.P.), from Bologna. Unassuming centre-left candidate for Prime Minister. Product of Milan Catholic University, visiting professor at Harvard in 1984. He is a former elected poet. He is a Catholic, who cycles to his work, and who married his childhood sweetheart.

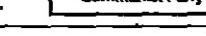
GIANFRANCO FINI
Aged 44. From Bologna. Leader of the neo-Fascist Movimento Sociale Italiano (MSI), heir to Mussolini's Blackshirts. In 1994, as leader of MS, dissolved the MSI to create more moderate Alleanza Nazionale in 1995. Has given legitimacy to the Right. Polished performer, shrewd and calculating.

ROMANO PRODI
Aged 56. Economics professor from Padua, Veneto, a senator since 1987. He is a unkompliert, unpredictable, often foul-mouthed and demagogic, but also a shrewd tactician who turned the local protest movement into a national force.

BOSCHI aims to create a "nation of the North" called Padania.

LAMBERTO DINI
Aged 65. Current Prime Minister. From Florence, and a former Marche politician. Respected economist. Agreed to form a non-party "technocratic" administration when Berlusconi was ousted by forming his own centrist party, Italian Renewal, in February. Flamboyant wife, Donatella, is a wealthy businesswoman.

MASSIMO D'ALEMO
Aged 47. Leader of the Democrazia dei Popoli (D.P.), from Bologna. Unassuming centre-left candidate for Prime Minister. Product of Milan Catholic University, visiting professor at Harvard in 1984. He is a former elected poet. He is a Catholic, who cycles to his work, and who married his childhood sweetheart.



THE PARTIES

Pasta's masters source the votes

□ There are no exit polls this year, because they proved so inaccurate last time, but according to Milan food experts you can tell a voter's inclinations by what he eats. Table-watchers at an election feast in a top Milan restaurant said rightwingers prefer lasagne, liver and *baccala* (dried cod) while leftwingers go for "ethnic dishes" and tend to avoid heavy sauces.

Lamberto Dini, the centrist Prime Minister whose looks have earned him the nickname *Il Rosso* (The Toad), turns out to be very fond of *rancocchia* (fried frogs). Silvio Berlusconi is on a diet of strawberries and kiwi fruit, and cuts out lunch altogether, to ensure that he looks slim and elegant on television.

□ The Countess Donatella Pecci-Blunt, a striking blonde, has come out in

CAMPAGN NOTEBOOK

support of Lamberto Dini and his Rinnovamento Italiano party. This week she sent out last-minute invitations to an impromptu high society do at her fifteenth-century palazzo at the foot of the Piazza del Campidoglio, with a pianist playing left-wing songs and a giant cake with Signor Dini's name on it.

□ Down in Sorrento the patrician Mario d'Urso, the energetic former president of Lehman Brothers and an intimate of Rockefeller and Agnelli, is running for the Centre Left, campaigning stylishly up and down the Amalfi coast in a speedboat with a portable telephone from which he urges the great and the good in their villas to vote Left.

□ Whoever is elected tomorrow will have an uphill job getting voters to remember who they are. A survey suggests 88 per cent of voters could not name a single candidate in their constituencies.

RICHARD OWEN

Money markets bank on late spurt by Olive Tree coalition

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY'S election tomorrow appeared too close to call, with many voters saying they intended to abstain. Most commentators yesterday predicted a centre-right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi, with Gianfranco Fini's post-Fascist Alleanza Nazionale as the dominant force.

But the Centre Left, which includes the former Communists, made what *La Stampa* called a "last-minute spurt".

and there were signs that the money markets were banking on a centre-left coalition led by Romano Prodi, a respected professor of economics. "The Centre Left has its best chance since the Second World War," said Renato Mannheimer, professor of politics at Genoa University.

The centre-left bloc known as L'Ulivo, or The Olive Tree,

challenged the Right by holding its final election rally in the Piazza del Popolo, traditionally the site of right-wing demonstrations. One hundred and fifty thousand people attended, making a sea of green and white flags, the colours of the centrist parties, with occasional flashes of red. Two years ago it was nearly all red flags.

"Two years ago it was nearly all red flags," said one Olive Tree supporter. "Now the Centre Left is more centre than left."

The platform reflected this shift, with Professor Prodi standing alongside Lamberto Dini, the caretaker Prime Minister since the last Berlusconi Government collapsed at the end of 1994. Signor Dini, who created Rinnovamento Italiano, or Italian Renewal, as a new centre party for this election, initially said that he was

aligned with neither Left nor Right. But his appearance yesterday was a sign that he had plumped for an alliance with the Party of the Democratic Left.

Conservatives at a rival rally in Piazza Navona said the moderation of the Centre Left was an illusion. But a survey by *L'Espresso* magazine of stockbrokers and investors showed that 55 per cent favour a centre-left government. Investment analysts said although Signor Berlusconi was a dynamic businessman, corruption charges had clouded his career, while Signor Fini's "corporatist" neo-Fascist ideology would undermine the lira. By contrast, Professor Prodi was a "safe pair of hands", while Signor Dini had steered Italy through monetary union.

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Scourge of Britain's beef herd takes stock

BRUSSELS FILE
by CHARLES BREMNER

IN BRITAIN'S troubled relations with its European partners, popular wrath has focused on a long procession of continental villains. Sometimes the dastardly Eurocrat is a natural for tabloid caricature, as was the case with Jacques Delors, the French former President of the Commission and irascible philosopher of Maastricht fame.

It is harder to make a bogeyman out of Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner and latest *haut fonctionnaire* to attract British ire. "That awful man in a beard," seems to be the worst that British papers could hurl at the beef-eating Austrian whose alimentary intentions sparked indignation this week.

The burly, amiable-mannered Herr Fischler, 49, is a newcomer.

Connoisseur choc horror

PATRIOTIC Belgians are fuming over a largely unsung British victory this week. The Commission's decision to give EU-wide approval to British-style chocolate, which usually contains vegetable fat, was too much to swallow for the country that prides itself as the world headquarters of fine chocolate. The official blessing for the ersatz stuff, cheaper to make

and banned from production in half the EU states, amounts to sacrilege, said *Le Soir*, the main Brussels paper. According to Jacques Mercier, a full-time "chocolate writer," Belgians must resist any temptation to make or eat the adulterated stuff. The decision, he said, showed "the reign of money over everything else, over the quality of life and good taste".

animal transport, veal crates and food quality. His resistance to allowing imports of hormone-raised beef has annoyed Britain, but been welcomed across the Continent. At the same time, he has calmed the anguish of the French over letting rivals from the old Communist bloc share the bounty of the CAP when they join the Union.

The son of a Tyrolean farmer, Herr Fischler earned a doctorate in agriculture before entering politics in 1990 as a Christian Democrat MP. One of his shrewd moves as a man with little foreign experience was to surround himself with one of the most international teams in the Commission.

A private man, his only visible concession to frivolity is a fondness for garish ties featuring farm animals. He spends weekdays alone in a modest Brussels flat. He eschews the usual limousines and walks to the Commission to start work at 7am, putting in longer days than most. At weekends he returns to his small farm in the Tyrolean village of Absam to be with his wife, Heidi, and four children.

It was his decision to go to the Tyrol on the first weekend of the beef crisis that led to the public relations stumble. Landing back in Brussels after the emergency



Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, inspects a cow in his home village of Absam

veterinary meeting was nearly over, he made a premature announcement of the beef ban, promising to put a "ring fence" around Britain, a remark from which he later retreated. His anger over the failure of Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, to warn him of the Commission's announcement on Creutzfeld-Jakob disease got the better of his usual calm.

When a British reporter turned up on his doorstep in Absam last Sunday, his instinct for plain-

speaking led him to the remark that he would eat British beef because there was nothing medically wrong with it.

Herr Fischler is appalled at being painted as the agent of an anti-British campaign. London, he believes, created the crisis by announcing a possible link between mad cows and CJD, and he is only trying to deal with a threat to the whole European industry. "He feels badly about Hogg not warning him," a colleague said. "If

there had been a bit of warning, maybe the whole thing could have been managed better."

While the affair has cast Herr Fischler as the scourge of John Bull's beef, his management of the crisis is well rated at the Commission. In Vienna he is being cited as a potential candidate for the chancellorship or the presidency. He is doing little to discourage such talk, but many a trap still lies ahead as he performs one of Europe's most thankless tasks.

Working for family values

FANCY a job in the well-paid ranks of the Eurocracy? Normally there is an army of supplicants in fierce competitive exams, but not for the Committee of the Regions, the youngest of EU institutions.

Here, the mere tug of a string by a well-placed contact can do the trick. Since the Maastricht treaty brought it into existence two years ago to bring Europe closer to its citizens, this council of 222 local politicians has earned a reputation for alleged nepotism.

The committee, whose ranks embrace German regional bosses and humble British councillors, was supposed to have mended its ways after an inquiry and the anointment last month of Pasqual Maragall, the Socialist Mayor of Barcelona, as its president.

However, old habits persist according to the staff unions, which reported this week to a 100-person sit-in. The spark was the induction of 20 new civil servants to £35,000-a-year jobs on the basis of brief interviews.

"This type of political corruption is unprecedented," said Frank Patterson, vice-president of the Union Syndicale, the Eurocrats' main staff union. "They just walked in and had a chat and walked out as European officials."

Half of the committee's 80 permanent civil servants, including a bevy of Britons, are relatives or friends of insiders, says the union. It has issued Senior Maragall with a warning of further action.

Nastase courts votes in mayoral contest

FROM REUTER IN BUCHAREST

ILIE NASTASE, the Romanian former tennis star, launched his campaign to be Mayor of Bucharest yesterday with the backing of Nadia Comaneci, the former communist country's other sporting idol.

"I wish you every success from a sportswoman to a sportsman," Miss Comaneci told Mr Nastase after a kiss for the cameras.

"He built a name, he rebuilds a city," proclaimed his campaign slogan on banners over one of Bucharest's most elegant mansions.

On a wall outside, carefully written graffiti *Ilie Primar* (Ilie for Mayor) suggested his campaign managers were also



Régine: accused of intimidation on plane

French fume over club queen arrest

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

RÉGINE, the veteran Paris nightclub owner, singer and socialite who taught the Duke of Windsor the Twist, faced charges of assault and intimidation in a Boston court yesterday after she and her son got into an argument with airline staff over smoking.

Régine, 67, the self-styled "Queen of the Night" who once ran a string of nightclubs from Paris to London to Rio de Janeiro, was on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami when her son Lionel Rotcage, a former editor of the French edition of *Rolling Stone* magazine, lit up.

A steward asked Mr Rotcage, 47, to put out the cigarette or smoke at the back of the plane, but he declined, observing: "I don't give a

damn about the law." When the steward insisted, Mr Rotcage asked: "What are you going to do? Shoot me?" Threatened with legal action, he allegedly responded: "You do that and I'll shoot you down."

During the ensuing altercation, the chief steward was allegedly jostled and the captain announced an emergency landing to offload the fuming Mr Rotcage.

At this point the redoubtable Régine — her married name is Choukroun, but she prefers to be known by her regal first name — followed the captain back to the cockpit, "making obscene declarations", an FBI report said. "You can't tell me what to do," she declared in the shrill tones she once used to quieten unruly night-club

bers. "The last time someone told me what to do was when the Nazis invaded Paris."

On landing in Boston both mother and son were arrested by the FBI and charged with assault, intimidation and interfering with the flight crew.

The woman still known in France as the "Queen of hearts, clubs and diamonds" now has trouble in spades since she and her son each face up to 20 years in prison and fines of \$250,000 if convicted.

The incident has provoked outrage in France, where the colourful Régine, and smoking in forbidden places, are both enduringly popular. The newspaper *France-Soir* pointed out that the US "is a country where tobacco is on the way to being considered a

drug while arms are freely on sale". Even the usually sober *Le Monde* noted in a headline, "Régine and her son threatened with prison for the sake of a cigarette".

The Belgian-born Régine opened her first club in 1957 and built up a chain of 19 worldwide. Once she received a telephone call at 11pm from the secretary of the Duke of Windsor asking her to go to his Paris house and teach dinner-party guests how to do the Twist, the popular 1960s dance. In a canny marketing move, she insisted the royal party come to her club if they wanted a tutorial and, according to Régine, they did.

Régine and her son were released on Thursday after surrendering their passports.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

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■ OPINION
Is the arts establishment awarding too many goodies to boost the prestige of the capital?



■ MUSICALS
All you need is love... and a magic piano: Slade's *Salad Days* returns to the West End



■ CHOICE
From top Canadian ballet to the best pop gigs: the pick of the shows are in Weekend, pages 14 and 15



■ ON MONDAY
Tony Harrison's new Victor Hugo adaptation, *The Prince's Play*: read Benedict Nightingale's view

Was it only last year that suave claps from the Arts Council were assuring us that lottery money would not be "carved up" by the London-based arts establishment? Indeed it was — and their guarantees sounded so genuine, so heartfelt. All would benefit! From cornet players in Lancashire to busy mezzos at Covent Garden, the lottery largesse would flow evenly: Milk and honey all round!

Well, it has flowed all right. But most of the lottery cash has flowed in one direction. To say that the lion's share has been swiped by London would be to slander the communal generosity of big cats. The fact is that London's arty-smarties have demonstrated a greed for other people's money, and a genius for finagling it, that would leave many a smash-and-grab raider gaping in admiration. I try not to allow too many facts and figures to intrude upon my articles. I find them unhelpful to my arguments. But in this case I make an exception. Because lottery

awards are announced in dribs and drabs, the cumulative scope of London's dominance is hard to grasp. So let's have a quick glance at the old scoreboard so far.

Covent Garden has been given £78 million, Sadler's Wells £30m, the Royal Court £16m, the National Theatre £32m and the Globe £12m. The British Museum has enjoyed two massive handouts: £30m and £8m. The National Maritime Museum has picked up a useful £12m, and a tolerable £50m has gone to the Tate's Bankside project. Kew Gardens gets £21m for a "seed bank" (they must shop at the same garden centre as we do); and Greenwich gets £30m for Millennium jollies.

Readers with a head for numbers will have totted up this little list and found a total not far short of half a billion pounds. That's great for ten major projects. I hesitate to

mention the £344,540 of lottery cash awarded so that the Institute of Contemporary Arts can "examine its future role". Future role? You mean it had one in the past?

Or the £14,538 that will let the Laban Dance Centre in Lewisham commission a "study to determine whether the Centre should redevelop its facilities". Gosh, how many consultants does it take to walk round a dance school?

And there's more lottery lolly coming London's way. Much, much more. The South Bank Centre has high hopes for its £12m bid — yes, that is the bid which was £45m a year ago. Inflation in the arts is an awesome sight is it not? English National Opera is confident of extracting a few million to do up the Coliseum. Wembley Stadium is expecting a vast handout. And so on.

It all adds up to a monstrous

surprising, really, since Bedfordshire has been given precisely £3 per person. I don't favour moving the Royal Opera House to Luton, although that would be a fascinating sociological experiment. But I can see why people in the regions might form the impression that the lottery has been stitched up by a gang of metropolitan cronies.

"Ah yes," the London apologists counter, "but London has to compete against Paris, Berlin, Vienna and other famously endowed European capitals." True enough. But "second cities" must also compete internationally: Birmingham must keep up with Barcelona, Munich, Milan. So must third, fourth and fifth cities.

Ten years ago, the Arts Council

seemed to acknowledge this, devolving subsidy and power to the regions, and fostering a great

many centres of artistic excellence

outside London. Now, without public discussion or announcement, the policy has been reversed, and reversed in an astonishingly blatant fashion. London gets two, possibly three, lavishly refurbished lyric theatres; the excellent Welsh National Opera is refused even one proper home.

That's not good for the arts in Britain, and not good for London either. The impression in the capital is not one of carefully planned cultural growth, but of a wildly uncontrolled free-for-all in which overlapping schemes are allowed to chase after the same sources of private and corporate backing — and, in the long run, after the same limited audiences and subsidy. What you are seeing is not a drive to enrich London's artistic life, but a ruthless dash for cash that is then used

to fortify the most powerful cultural fiefdoms.

Meanwhile, where are the lottery-funded schemes — promised by the Prime Minister last year that are supposed to initiate an "arts renaissance" in schools? Mysterious; they are being formulated rather more slowly than London's megabuck projects. Nurturing the audiences and performers of tomorrow? Widening the desperately narrow social base that supports the arts? Not one of our priorities, old boy.

Ah well, let's finish on a defiantly regional note. What I want to know is: how are the people of Bedfordshire going to blow their 3p-per-head lottery handout this year? A magnum of inexpensive bubbly, perhaps, and a million straws? Or new shirts for Luton Town Football Club, with the promise of matching shorts to follow next season? Perhaps our readers in that part of the world would let Mrs Bonomley know. She does read her foreign mail, you know.

DONALD COOPER

GREAT BRITISH HOPES
Rising stars in the arts firmament

TOM HOLLANDER



Profession: Actor
Age: 28
Appearance: Cherub gone to seed.
Forte: The comedy and charisma of villainy.
Nasty pieces of work: He was Macbeth in Brecht's *Three Penny Opera*, casually organising crime in 21st-century Soho. Then Baby, the dangerously mixed-up mafia kid in *Mojito*.
And now? Tartuffe. Molére's 17th-century spiritual conman, at the Almeida.

On *Tartuffe*: "It's a brilliantly constructed play," Hollander says. "I like playing frightening megalomaniacs. I'm so unfrightening in real life."

Flexible Hollander transformed into a sweet, cheeky yet vulnerable Celia in Chekhov's *As You Like It*. In Peter Gill's *Way of the World*, he stole the show with a bit part as the flamboyant twit, Wirwood.

Family: The Hollanders are not historically theatrical but have artistic genes: a Czech grandfather was a celebrated authority on Janácek in bohemian Vienna. His sister is Julia Hollander, the ENO's youngest woman director. At Cambridge, Hollander was a zesty Cyano in Sam Mendes' Marlowe Society production and subsequently joined Mendes' company at Chichester.

The glories of Oxfordshire: Hollander is soon to be seen as the cox in *True Blue*, Channel 4's Boat Race movie. "We spent hours after being rained on by huge hoses with a wind-chill factor of minus 35 degrees," he says. "It was like the retreat from Moscow, but all good fun."

On acting: "On stage, for a few hours, your life is formalised, no longer chaotic. That can be relaxing."

On himself: "I'm ambitious," he says, "but quite lazy. On stage I think: This my chance to redeem a completely unimpressive existence."

KATE BASSETT

Class of '54 has aged beautifully

Now look, if you start sneering at this delightfully absurd but tuneful musical, saying things like "It's so middle-class," I shall cheerfully agree with that and point out how neatly the story spins the heads-in-tails-you-lose coin by both being and mocking its class. The mockery is gentle, and Timothy is the original cast recording reveals that even in 1954 Jane spoke in a terribly, terribly pure

voice, and Timothy was frightfully, frightfully shy and manly: "Oh, Jane, will it help if I marry you? Only if it will help." The irony is an essential spice, without which the show could not work.

The characters, of course, are not middle-class at all: Jane's mother is Lady Ræburn, and the roll-call of Timothy's five uncles includes a member of the Cabinet, although goodness knows what Uncle Ambrose, the camp couturier, is doing among them. Kit Hesketh-Harvey's grimaces and wandering hands belong in burlesque, and I'd be surprised to learn that the role was such a reach-me-down caricature first time round.

The dress salon scene is one of several revue sketches that fill in the gaps in the story of the magic piano. Timothy and Jane, just down from university, take on the job of looking after the "vehicular instrument" for a month. His family keeps sending him to meet the uncles, which cues in several of the sketches, and the Cabinet uncle meanly wants to confiscate the piano, which cues in most of the others.

Certainly, this is a primitive structure for a show, and when scenes are not enlivened by a song the humour is exposed as equally antique. But these songs — catchy, clever and sweet-hearted — are irresistible. Julian Slade's melodies have that rare and blessed quality of proving themselves unforgettable after a single hearing. The lyrics too. In Jane's *I Sit in the Sun*, as in the duet *We Said We Wouldn't Look Back*, the simply rhymed, colloquial

phrases fit the musical line so easily that words stay in the memory along with tune.

Simon Connolly catches the innocent charm of Timothy very fetchingly, but in Nicola Fulljames, playing Jane in a bright yellow New Look frock and long white gloves, Ned Sherrin's production has

found a heroine capable of subtle touches of comedy and with a voice that is positively enchanting.

Hesketh-Harvey's other performances, mostly as uncles, are amusing, while his cabaret partner Richard Sisson (aka the Widow), reveals an attractive skill at not

too-winsome mime as the piano-playing clown, Trppo.

The revolving bandstand at the centre of Patrick Connelan's set solves the problem of bringing speed to the scene changes, but severely restricts the dancing area to the front of the stage. This is unfortunate in a show where outbursts of

ungovernable dance are crucial to the story. I don't think we can even say that it jokily comments on the 1950s style, although, being in generous mood, that is how I propose to take the shadow thrown by the lamppost on the blu sky.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Richard Sisson, Nicola Fulljames, Simon Connolly — and magic piano — in the ever-enchanting *Salad Days*

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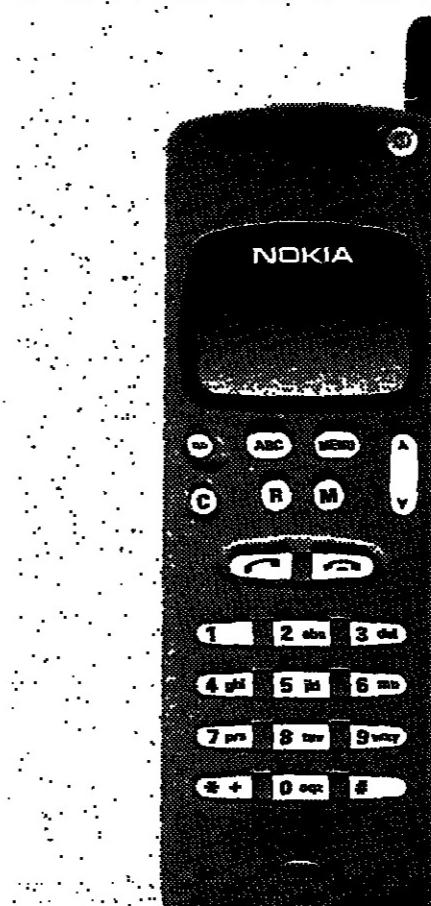
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■ INTERVIEW

Stepping into Henry Fonda's shoes: Kevin Whately on the challenge of *Twelve Angry Men*



■ MUSIC

Peter Donohoe struggles with a poor piano to play fine Rachmaninov in Cheltenham

THE TIMES ARTS



■ BASE NOTES

Tim Roth will make his debut as a director this year — filming *The War Zone* in Devon



■ BASE NOTES
... while Tom Waits wins a three-year court battle with his own music publishers

Daniel Rosenthal talks to Kevin Whately about his West End stage debut in *Twelve Angry Men*

A case of following Fonda

During his five-year absence from the stage, Kevin Whately has continued to experience what he calls "mind-boggling" small-screen popularity.

As family-adoring Sergeant Lewis in *Inspector Morse*, fiery Dr Jack Kerruish in *Peak Practice*, and native carpenter Neville Hope in the recent Channel 4 reruns of *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*, Whately has rarely been away from the nation's living rooms for long. Plum parts in three of the most successful television series of the past two decades — not a bad record for a man who graduated from London's Central School of Speech and Drama convinced he "would never be anything other than a stage actor".

The return to theatre — and his West End debut — comes in Reginald Rose's *Twelve Angry Men*. Whately plays the liberal architect who, on a baking hot day in New York in 1954, sets out to persuade 11 fellow jurors that despite apparently conclusive evidence, a 16-year-old boy accused of murdering his brutal father may not be guilty.

The offer to join Harold Pinter's production was irresistible. "I couldn't turn down a chance to work with a living legend," Whately says.

"*Twelve Angry Men* also appealed because it's an ensemble piece, not a star vehicle." He describes the company, which includes Timothy West and Tim Healy (the builders' leader in *Auf Wiedersehen*), as "a good bunch of clever actors, with no flashy egos".

Rose's enthralling play was written soon after he served as a juror on a manslaughter trial (the defendant was convicted of a lesser charge) and has enjoyed enduring fame through the Oscar-nominated film version, which had Henry Fonda as the architect and was the first of

director Sidney Lumet's numerous cinematic explorations of crime and punishment in New York.

"Don't mention the film" became the Basil Fawlty-like rehearsal motto for Pinter's dozen, but Whately "sneaked another look" when Fonda and company popped up on television shortly before the production began a month long run at the Bristol Old Vic.

"It's a great film," he says. "But while the camera's always going in close on Fonda, on stage you get to see all the jurors' reactions at once, which is much more interesting. There's also more humour in our version."

"The accused boy is obviously from an ethnic minority,

probably black or Puerto Rican, but the speeches by the most racist juror were heavily cut in the film. We haven't cut them because it's important that the audience sees the race issue clearly."

Those who know Whately only through television may be surprised by his theatrical pedigree. Born in the North Tyneside Valley, the son of a merchant seaman, he abandoned accountancy training in Newcastle to pursue the acting bug which first struck at the age of four with family plays directed by his elder sister. Drama school was followed by several years in rep, and his CV includes John Proctor in *The Crucible* (twice), Prince Hal, Billy Liar and, most recently, a National Front agent provocateur at the Bush.

After playing a lorry driver in *Coronation Street* for six weeks, his television break-

through came in 1983 thanks to *Auf Wiedersehen*. Dick Clement's and Ian La Frenais's glorious tales of British builders on the make in Germany and Spain, with Whately as the shyest member of an occasionally wild bunch.

Next came the *Inspector Morse* phenomenon: 29 films in eight years, hundreds of millions of viewers in more than 50 countries. The golden hat-trick, which Whately attributes largely to top-class writing, was completed in 1993, when 14 million watched GP Dr Jack Kerruish saving lives in the first of his three series of *Peak Practice*.

Adjusting to the fame that accompanies such huge audiences was traumatic and Whately still finds life as "a telly face" strange. "I can't conceive of a million people watching me, never mind hundreds of millions. The

younger actors in *Twelve Angry Men* see what that popularity is like when people approach me for autographs. I was in their position before I got into television. When I was on tour with Stephen Hancock, who was Ernie Bishop in *Coronation Street* for years, he was mobbed everywhere."

"I find television work less rewarding than theatre, but it has its own excitement and is obviously much more lucrative. I've done so much of it because with young kids [Katy, now 13, and Kieran, 11], I couldn't afford to keep doing rep for £180 a week."

Whately's presence in so

much repeat-drama means that even when, as now, he is taking a break from television, television appears unwilling to take a break from him. "As I walked into the green room for the interval on

Twelve Angry Men's first Sat-

urday night in Bristol, the understudies were watching *Auf Wiedersehen*. I was suddenly confronted by my, Tim Healy and the other lads' naked bums duck-diving into a Spanish swimming pool."

● *Twelve Angry Men opens at the Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (071-369 1731) on Monday*

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Niall Ferguson shows how, since 1989, history has been going backwards towards the ancien régime, as modernity unravels

The eminent German historian and strategic analyst, Michael Stürmer, speaking off-the-cuff at a small dinner party the other day given for him by Lord Weidenfeld, said: "1989 was a turning point at which history failed to turn."

It may have been the quality of the wine being served, but that phrase — an updating of A.J.P. Taylor's famous one-liner about 1848 — threw a switch in the mind of one of the guests. Not so, I found myself thinking. 1989 was a turning point, all right. The trouble is that history turned 180 degrees — and ever since it has been running backwards.

The idea of history in reverse may seem bizarre — the stuff of science fiction. Yet the more I think about it, the more useful it seems as an insight into the nature of most, if not all, of our present tribulations. Ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall, those who make a living from analysing the immediate past and foretelling the future — the Francis Fukuyamas and Paul Kennedys of this world — have been struggling. Now I think I see why. In trying to look ahead

for trends, they are facing the wrong way.

In fact, the secret of the future lies behind us; and to see where we are heading, all you have to do is press rewind. But remember: history moves backwards a great deal faster than it moved forward.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Empire, the historic achievements of not only the 20th century but also the 19th (and in some cases even the 18th) have been unravelling with extraordinary rapidity. For example: probably the most important political products of the modern era were the nation states. In fact, few of them were as homogeneous, ethnically or culturally, as their propagandists liked to claim; and a great many held on to, or acquired, large empires, the existence of which was at variance with the principle of self-determination. Nevertheless, beginning c.1650, they emerged, one by one, out of the mish-mash of

dynastic pseudo-empires and petty principalities: first Britain, Russia and France, then the United States, followed in the 19th century by Greece, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Romania and Bulgaria, and in the 20th (after immense bloodshed) Ireland, Poland, Yugoslavia and the rest.

1989 appeared to be the culmination of this process: the reunification of Germany and the creation of nation states for the hitherto vassal peoples of Eastern Europe. In reality, it has proved to be the end of the nationalist road, and the nation states have been dissolving with amazing speed ever since. Yugoslavia was the first and most horrendous case; Czechoslovakia went more quietly. At the same time, the Franco-German project to create a European federation has led to a creeping dissolution of the West European states, beginning in Italy (now almost "de-unified"). As a result, the end-

product of Maastricht seems likely to look more like the Holy Roman Empire than the *Bundesrepublik Europa* of Helmut Kohl's dreams. What is more — though it is not generally realised — this process of disintegration is already accelerating in Belgium, in Spain and, of course, in Britain.

For under the impending Labour government, history looks like being reversed on a grand scale, with the effective repeal of the 1707 Act of Union and the restoration of the Edinburgh Parliament, as well (it seems reasonable to suppose) as the continuing surreptitious transfer of Ulster to the Dublin Republic. This effectively means the demolition of the entire Hanoverian edifice we know as 'Great Britain'. See what I mean?

Nor is this purely a European phenomenon. While Russia recedes to the borders of Muscovy (for the second time this century, incidentally), more and more vot-

ers of the other ex-superpower seem intent on dismantling the great central government in Washington which sprang up after 1914. The achievements of the Big Government Presidents — Roosevelt, Kennedy, Johnson — seem doomed to be undone as the agenda of American politics is increasingly set by a populist movement such as has not been seen since the 1890s. At the same time, Canada teeters on the brink of Quebecois secession.

Meanwhile, a great but closed empire dominates the Far East — though the possibility cannot be ruled out that when Emperor Deng dies, the empire may break up, so uneven has been the recent process of economic development. And in North Africa and the Middle East, a reviving Islam is undermining the system of nation states constructed in the ruins of

the Ottoman Empire between the 1820s and the 1920s. (For this reason, Israeli neurosis about the future is not irrational. Though modernity has conferred both blessings and curses on the Jews, the prospect of a return to the 18th century is hardly an enticing one.)

All this means good business for the people who draw and publish maps, you may say, but how does it affect Middle England? Surely we, with our satellite dishes, are destined for more of the same in the 21st century?

Wrong. For the reality is that even our apparently ultra-modern society is well on the way back to the 18th century. When that wartime behemoth, the welfare state, finally collapses under its own weight, a distinctly ancien régime society will stand revealed — from the aristocratic to underclass. The only difference is that today, in the absence of capital punishment and transportation the State lacks the

means of disciplining them.

As for our politics, there is no mistaking the 18th-century quality of new Labour. Lord Irvine's Whigs, led in the Commons by his youthful junior Mr Blair, are now poised to oust Lord Mackay's demoralised Tory ministry and then continue its policies, whatever those may be. On the quangos which run the country, Tory placemen will be replaced by Whig placemen. Meanwhile, the Royal Family falls further and further into disrepute — though instead of the *Madness of King George III* we must look forward, I fear, to the madness of Charles III.

In Martin Amis's *Time's Arrow*, the central character dies at the beginning of the novel, and is born at the end. Something similar appears to have been happening to history. As Professor Stürmer was quick to point out, this is bad news for Germany. But, on reflection, I think it may be rather good news for England. After all, what is national decline when it is played backwards?

The author is a fellow of Jesus College, Oxford.

Don't dwarf the capital

The giant Ferris wheel is a PR stunt, says Giles Worsley

British Airways did not become the World's Favourite Airline without a certain ingenuity, but nothing could beat the subtle way in which it has suggested building the world's largest corporate advertisement in the very heart of London. Five hundred feet high, towering over Big Ben, taller than St Paul's Cathedral, the British Airways Millennium Wheel proposed for the South Bank is portrayed as an altruistic millennium gesture. But, if built, it will undoubtedly be the symbol of London in 2000, when we will not be allowed to forget that it was British Airways that gave it to us.

The airline has moved smoothly in to support a scheme floated last year by the architects David Marks and Julia Barfield. At the time it was roundly condemned by the Royal Fine Art Commission for its visual intrusion on London's skyline. But, supported by the airline for a fraction of the cost of one new plane, it has now returned. What makes BA's scheme so ingenious, is that its chief executive, Bob Ayling, acknowledged, is that while the firm is putting up £600,000 of start-up capital towards a total cost of £9.5 million, the expected two million visitors a year — at £5 each for adults and half price for children — should soon recoup the costs. The largest corporate advertisement in the world, symbol of London for the millennium, and possibly free — no wonder BA is so keen on the concept.

The idea of a giant Ferris wheel, harmless and entertaining in itself, although quite why a Ferris wheel should be seen as a futuristic statement is unclear. It is exactly 100 years since the death of the wheel's inventor, the American G.W.G. Ferris. If anything, it suggests the slightly tawdry, run-down Europe of postwar Vienna in Orson Welles's film *The Third Man*. But such a wheel would only be harmless and entertaining in the right place. That place is not the centre of London.

Little more than Modernist nostalgia lies behind the belief that the South Bank is an appropriate site. This was the home of the 1951 Festival of Britain, that last moment of Modernist innocence, before

Kicking accidents into touch

When a referee can be sued, it is a sad day for rugby — and for liberty

My raggle-tangle army is in retreat. We stumble blind across the battlefield, beaten at every turn. Yesterday the High Court dealt us another blow and left us reeling. We are the army of Most Reasonable People. We cut a sorry sight.

Most reasonable people will have been left gasping by yesterday's decision by Mr Justice Curtis in the case of the rugby referee. An honest man giving up an afternoon to help boys to enjoy their sport is found guilty of culpable negligence for not stopping a scrum collapsing. He is now liable for £1 million in damages. Most reasonable people will throw up their hands in despair. Yet most reasonable people are not a consideration here. The law has found its way into one more area of community life. Yet another activity must surround itself with defensive insurance, legal advice and expense. Yet another band of selfless volunteers will say "to hell with it" and stay at home.

At the bottom of my drawer is a folder marked Legal Lunacies. It is bulging with material. A parent sues a theatre because *Peter Pan* scared her child. A policeman sues for a blister caused while using a CS gas can. Two women sue their boss for telling sexist jokes in his annual speech. A dancer sues a floor polisher for making the ballroom too slippery. An armed robber sues for pain and distress involved in his arrest. Seventy pupils sue their school because they did not do better in exams.

The British are now suing with the same abandon as Americans. My transatlantic collection includes people suing for sliced golf shots, for fallen butts, for over-hot McDonald's coffee, for the shock of seeing Mickey Mouse in daytime clothes and for not finding salvation in a Baptist church. The Western bourgeoisie no longer sues merely for financial loss. It sues for trauma, distress, embarrassment. It sues to be made happy or for a million pounds. As for accidents, they no longer exist. The world has given up on Acts of God. The Almighty no longer moves in a mysterious way. His wonders to perform. One wrong move and He goes down for culpable negligence.

To lawyers, I am sure that yesterday's judgement in the case of the injured rugby player will seem a fine one. If we play a game under rules intended to protect our safety and submit to the decisions of a referee, we expect him to do the job. If we break our necks because, in our view, he failed to blow the whistle in time,



Rugby is an unpredictable and sometimes violent game — should players who risk life and limb be able to sue referees for damages?

we are entitled to complain. In 1991, 17-year-old Ben Smolton broke his neck playing for Sutton Coldfield Colts. He maintains that the dangerous practice of players collapsing the scrum had got of hand. The referee, Michael Nolan, should have stopped it sooner than he did.

Most reasonable people would react by feeling deeply sorry for Mr Smolton. Like hundreds of victims of this exhilarating but absurdly violent game, he is confined to a wheelchair. The Twickenham touchline at big matches has a phalanx of wheelchairs, none of whose occupants has ever sued the game they love (and who must now be cursing their solicitors). Perhaps the Staffordshire referee might have blown his whistle a second earlier. Perhaps a complaint might have been made to the Society of Rugby Football Referees. Perhaps Mr Nolan should not be allowed to referee any more games, or at least should undergo retraining. But a law suit? A High Court judgment? A million pounds demanded?

The dwindling band of reasonable people might also wonder why Mr Smolton's parents did not take out injury insurance, given the known risks of rugby. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, this is by far the most dangerous sport for serious injury. (Next come skating, riding and skiing.) Put your son in the front row

of a Staffordshire scrum and you have an accident waiting to happen. If money was going to be so important to Mr Smolton in the event of injury, cover would have been shrewd as well as wise. Why take a gamble on an opponent's insurer not having a million pounds to spare, when you can insure for a million pounds yourself?

I find all this obscene. The courts have now thrown open their doors to players in any game to treat a referee's decision as vulnerable to judicial review. The Lord Chief Justice should be as outspoken with a judge who encourages such outrageous litigation as he is with the Home Secretary.

These suits should not just be thrown out of court, they should be banned on receipt. Like the current craze for judicial review of public administration, negligence litigation may have its roots in legitimate grievance, but it risks polluting public and private life. Such litigation does not make for better professional judgment. It merely makes for ultra-cautious judgment and escalating cost. Every doctor, architect, accountant, administrator, minister even, sits enveloped in advice and fees. This in turn induces

their clients to see them as a soft touch should accident befall.

I accept that a principle of culpable negligence must be upheld if people are to be protected against risks they cannot reasonably predict. The civil courts must be available to hold purveyors of goods and services accountable, especially where the service is a professional one based on trust in another's judgment. We seek redress for professional errors not

just because they are often catastrophic — a lost leg, a collapsed house, a bankrupt business — but to deter and protect others.

Yet there must be a boundary between such redress and dumping all responsibility for risk onto

others, marked by the single word, *lunacy*. People long to find a reason for their misfortune that can be pinned on somebody else. And always there is the excuse that nobody is really hurt by litigation because an insurer (or government) will pick up the tab.

Against this onward march of the suing classes, my shrinking platoon of reasonables can only fall back on philosophy. They hold to their belief that accidents do happen, that life is full of perils. Some of these perils are caused by human beings operating at less than 100 per cent efficiency. What Americans call *tort abuse* may make us more careful. But this is not an undiluted good. It distorts professional judgment and increases insurance costs. We take the Acts of God, redistribute them and add 10 or 20 per cent.

There must be a limit to this redistribution. Individuals should be left with some responsibility for their actions, for the risks involved in the business of living. The principle of *caveat emptor* is a useful discipline. It balances caution against risk and pins responsibility for reaching that balance firmly on personal choice.

Ask a judge to find the balance, topple the goddess Luck and set in her place the ambulance chaser and the insurance broker and you diminish individual responsibility and personal freedom. You make a safer world, but a meaner one.

Simon Jenkins

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"Eric Hall: high fashion"

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996



LONG TO REIGN

The nation is blessed by a resilient monarch, and monarchy

TOMORROW the Queen will be 70 and the nation will have rich cause to celebrate. In her 44 years as head of state she has performed with a grace and poise that have disarmed criticism. Anniversaries are occasions for reflection, and on this birthday there is good reason for the nation to take the longer view which the Queen, by virtue of experience and office, has always held.

Nearly 100 years ago, in 1897, Queen Victoria, ruler of one quarter of the globe, celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. In her own lifetime criticism of the monarchy had grown, but she, and the Crown, outlived the critics. Since then Britain has endured decline. The nation has been overtaken economically, its rulers have seen authority sweep away, its Empire has dwindled to a cluster of rocky outcrops. Throughout the social and economic upheaval this country has, with the sad exception of Northern Ireland, enjoyed civil peace and stability. The institution that has guaranteed that is the monarchy.

There is a strong mood today that the monarchy's survival depends on the Queen's. It is argued that respect for her personal dignity and gratitude for her obvious sense of duty is the only reason not to move to a more "modern" constitutional settlement, specifically a republic. Republicans, from the Marxist Tom Nairn to the free market radical Stephen Haseler, have argued that the monarchy mires Britain in nostalgia and inhibits necessary change. Republicans sense the widespread and justified distaste for the behaviour of some younger members of the Royal Family and exploit it to argue that when generations change, so should systems.

The tribute that even the most determined republicans pay the Queen is no more than her due. Although criticised for complicity with Macmillan in elevating Home to the premiership in 1963 and, more recently, for her readiness to intervene to keep Canada together, she has been more sure-footed than

her ministers. On both, indeed on all politically sensitive occasions of which we know, the Queen has underwritten rather than undermined the acts of elected politicians — as a figure herself above politics. No elected President could command the same authority. The Queen's wisdom and restraint have enhanced the reputation of monarchy but the health of the constitution depends on the survival of the institution, not the individual.

There are qualities specific to the monarchy, independent of the personality of the King or Queen, for which the nation might give thanks this weekend. The Queen, in the words of Vernon Bogdanor, "interprets the nation to itself". The monarch is an emotionally satisfying focus for national loyalty. Far from impeding change, the monarchy and our settled constitutional order have made change easier to bear. Reforming Governments of the Left from Gladstone to Wilson have recognised how valuable stability at the top has been in helping to improve the lot of those at the bottom.

Across the globe the evidence suggests that constitutional continuity helps a people to cope with modernity's strains. The pain of losing an empire was assuaged in Britain by the Queen but it destroyed the French Fourth Republic. A monarch helped Spain to democratise itself. No advanced nation has a monarchy quite as traditional as Japan's, yet few have been as economically successful with such a scarcity of natural resources.

The nation should forget the Royal Family's recent sadnesses and focus on how well monarchy has served this country through a time of traumas. Over the next 12 months dealing with change will be the matter of fierce political competition. That our head of state should be above the partisan struggle is a blessing. There may be no better birthday wish for Her Majesty than that that she, and the Throne she graces, should continue to enjoy long life.

AMBER ALERT

BRITAIN grapples with new Chinese threats to Hong Kong

Malcolm Rifkind meets his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, today in The Hague at a critical juncture for Hong Kong. In the past few weeks, China has done everything possible to undermine the legitimacy of the Hong Kong Government and its democratically elected legislature; its plans to create a "provisional legislature", to replace the existing elected Legislative Council are contrary to the spirit and the letter of the 1984 Sino-British Declaration and have no legal basis in China's own Basic Law for post-1997 Hong Kong. John Major's promise, when he was in Hong Kong last month, that if "there were any suggestion of a breach of the Joint Declaration, we would mobilise the international community and pursue every legal or other avenue open to us" is being put to an almost immediate test.

Mr Rifkind has condemned these decisions but in terms designed to stop just short of declaring China in breach of the 1984 treaty. Chris Patten, Hong Kong's Governor, points out that the provisional legislature has no "constitutional position", but adds carefully that it is up to China to justify its legality. The British approach is to treat this as a political rather than a legal problem, in the hope that Britain can convince China that if it goes ahead, it will inflict huge damage on its international standing as a law-abiding power, as well as undermining the prosperity of Hong Kong.

This tactic would have sounded more plausible a few months ago than it does now: China has demonstrated in the Taiwan Strait, its readiness to put "sovereignty" far ahead of such material considerations. In addition, the Hong Kong preparatory committee dealing with the transition, chaired by Mr Qian himself, has now blocked this

avenue of escape by announcing that it intends to install the provisional legislature even before the handover. China's deliberate aim is to create two rival centres of power. Its officials have told civil servants that if they do not co-operate with it, they will be dismissed when China takes over.

Mr Patten has rightly refused to undermine the legally constituted legislature by according this body any form of recognition. But even if he does not, China's action would inescapably be in breach of the article of the Joint Declaration which binds China to cooperate with Britain as the sole governing authority prior to July 1, 1997. If Mr Rifkind does not say so firmly, and outline the legal steps which Britain would be compelled to take, the Chinese will treat Mr Major's pledge as mere howling in the wind.

The legality of the provisional legislature is being challenged not only by Hong Kong's democrats but by eminent lawyers whom China consulted when it was drafting the Basic Law and even by many of Peking's normally unquestioning supporters. Britain has a duty to be at least as robust as those who will live under Chinese sovereignty after June, 1997. Confidence in Hong Kong is weakening even in the hitherto unflurried business community. International concern is mounting. Merrill Lynch this week issued an "amber alert" on Hong Kong stocks, pointing to the "growing risk of politically induced fallout". China has shown itself immune to political persuasion, but sensitive to charges that it is failing to abide by its legal undertakings. Politically, this is the right time for Britain to make its stand on legal principle. Legally, now that China has made its intentions plain, Britain can only weaken its case by delaying its challenge.

BENEFIT TRANSFER

LABOUR proposes a better way of encouraging children to learn

Few things are more expensive in life than children. Feeding, clothing and, for some, educating the offspring takes a huge chunk out of family income. That is why, in almost every country, the tax system recognises the extra cost of raising children.

In Britain, what was once a child tax allowance was transformed in 1979 to a child benefit. The big advantage is that the money goes straight to the mother and is more likely to be spent on what it was intended to finance. The disadvantage, however, is that child benefit now looks like a State handout, part of the social security system, whereas in fact it represents a handing back of what used not to be taken away.

This is the best argument against turning what is now a universal benefit into a means-tested one. The cost of bringing up children should be recognised in all families. But after the age of 16, child benefit ceases to be universal and is paid only to the mothers of children who are still in full-time education. It is this money — a substantial £700 million — that Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, wants to see differently targeted.

At the moment, children who stay at school after the age of 16 are likely already to have come from more prosperous families. Mr Brown last night drew out some unsettling statistics. For instance, 80 per cent of the children of unskilled men leave school at 16, most with no qualifications at all. Three-quarters of them receive no further

training or education. It is clear, therefore, that the extension of child benefits beyond 16 years is not serving the purpose for which it was intended — encouraging poorer children to stay at school. Rather it is essentially giving tax revenues back to the middle class from whom they were collected — an outcome which Labour understandably regards with less approval than the Tories.

Mr Brown's proposal is that the £700 million saved by scrapping these child benefits should instead be spent on supporting those 16 to 18-year-olds who would benefit from full-time education but could not otherwise afford it. This would not just be socially desirable; it could also make economic sense in a world of shrinking demand for unskilled school-leavers. The question, however, is whether giving state handouts directly to young people would be the best way of improving their educational chances and recycling the money Mr Brown has quite reasonably decided to take from the middle class.

The details of the new education allowances, which remain scanty, will therefore be all-important if Labour's proposals are to make a truly convincing case. Nevertheless, this scheme seems to represent the kind of sensible and imaginative redirection of existing resources that Labour claims will be its hallmark in Government. Mr Brown would do well to continue thinking along these lines.

5/9/96

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Issues at the heart of Labour policy

From Labour's Chief Whip

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's six articles on Labour (April 13-19) have been challenging and interesting and will have genuinely helped your readers to a better understanding of new Labour. I do not think the headline in his final piece, "Blair will win — and fail", accurately sums up his own conclusion. Mr Kaletsky is saying that Labour is a good bet in every sense and there are many who agree with him.

Your leader today, "Looking-glass Labour", says that readers will be surprised to know how much policy has actually been made by the Labour Party, but then argues that Tony Blair is keeping his party, as well as the public, in the dark. You cannot have it both ways.

On the minimum wage you argue that we should posit its maximum level. That would destroy the whole point of our policy, which is to consult with all sides of industry in government when the economic circumstances are clear.

On tax you argue that silence on tax will lead to further charges of a hidden agenda. Such charges will be baseless. We have said that we have no plans to raise taxes and that if we have proposals they will be disclosed before the election.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD DEWAR,
Chief Whip, Labour Party,
House of Commons.
April 19.

From the Chairman of the BMA

Sir, I was very interested to read Anatole Kaletsky's comment that the Government's health experiment has failed either in restoring public confidence or in reducing costs ("Pensions made to measure", April 17).

That such a respected commentator should reach such a conclusion is in marked contrast with statements made by the Secretary of State for Health on the fifth anniversary of the NHS "reforms" that the changes have been accepted as a permanent part of the landscape. I believe that to his credit Mr Dorrell is now tacitly acknowledging there are problems and is beginning to address them. But the Government as a whole is still reluctant to acknowledge the extent of the impending crisis.

At the BMA we have no doubt that the "reforms" must be reformed because of the inherent flaws in the system introduced five years ago. It seems to me that there is widespread alarm in the NHS, both among patients and among those who care for them, about the state of the service. Successive opinion polls support this view.

It surprises me that those commenting on successive by-election results sometimes ignore this fact.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. MACARA,
Chairman of Council,
British Medical Association,
Tavistock Square, WC1.
April 18.

From Mr J. W. ff. Young

Sir, For many of us the dreaded question is not "What will Labour do?" (Kaletsky's) Labour, April 13) but "Who is going to pay the bill?"

Yours faithfully,
J. W. ff. YOUNG,
36 Jessel House,
Judd Street, WC1.
April 19.

Hosepipe charges

From Mr G. J. Hayes

Sir, The statutory provision for reducing water charges in Section 76(4) of the Water Industry Act 1991, referred to by Mr P. G. Scott in his letter of April 15, applies only in cases where a water undertaker makes charges for the use of a hosepipe or similar apparatus and a hosepipe or sprinkler ban restricts non-domestic supplies for watering gardens or washing cars.

Many companies, such as this one, do not make separate charges for use of hosepipes or sprinklers, and in such situations no reduction or adjustments arise.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM J. HEYES
(Company Secretary and Solicitor),
Southern Water Services,
Yarrow Road,
Worthing, West Sussex.
April 17.

Opposition in Kenya

From Mr Kenneth Matiba

Sir, Sam Kiley's report, "Kenyan opposition self-destructs in violent clashes" (April 4), is riddled with gross inaccuracies. Biased reporting and unwarranted attacks against opposition politicians in the media are unfortunately all too common in Kenya, a country governed by an autocratic ruler who displays a flagrant disregard for freedom of the press. I would expect more reflective coverage from the press and Parliament and provide the necessary checks and balances on the

Macmillan and the 1963 succession

From Mr Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, In my judgment, Lord Home succeeded to the premiership in 1963 not through a "plot" on the part of Harold Macmillan (report, April 15) but as the favoured candidate of the Conservative Party. The Queen, therefore, did not "block Butler"; nor did her decision to appoint Home "damage the Crown".

In June 1963, four months before Harold Macmillan's resignation, the executive of the 1922 Committee told Butler that he would not be the favourite for the succession. Butler's papers confirm this message, which was reiterated by the chairman of the 1922 Committee, Major John Morrison, in July 1963. At the same time Major Morrison told Home that, as he could now dismiss his title, he might well be a candidate for the leadership.

Since Macmillan was unable to foist his first choice for the succession, Lord Hailsham, upon the Conservative Party it is highly unlikely that a plot to impose Lord Home would have succeeded had Home not been favoured by the party.

Although Macmillan could not formally advise the Queen whom to appoint as his successor the memorandum which he presented to her apparently showed that, taking into account the views of the Cabinet, the parliamentary party in both Houses and the party in the country, Lord Home was the first choice.

The particular difficulty which occurred in 1963 will not, of course, occur again, since the Conservatives have used an electoral procedure to choose their leader since 1965. Even so, the 1963 crisis casts valuable light on how the Sovereign might carry out her responsibilities in the event of a hung Parliament.

Yours sincerely,
VERNON BOGDANOR
(Reader in Government),
Brasenose College,
Oxford.
April 15.

Duty of Israel to protect its citizens

From the Director of the Britain Israel Public Affairs Centre

Sir, Sir Anthony Parsons et al (letter, April 18) engage in a circular argument when they suggest that Israel's maintenance of a security zone in South Lebanon is the cause of Hezbollah's rocket attacks on Israel's northern towns. Israelis argue — with greater justification, I believe — that they are compelled to maintain a buffer in order to protect their civilian population.

The facts of the matter are simple and accessible: so far, the Lebanese central Government has proved unwilling or unable to deploy its army in the south and ensure security along its border with Israel. It has also conspicuously declined to disarm the military wing of Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy which is pledged to the destruction of Israeli civilians.

Israel has repeatedly stated that it has no territorial claims on Lebanon and, indeed, established the security zone as a *cordon sanitaire* in response to years of cross-border incursions

which posed a constant threat to its civilian population in the north.

There is an unambiguous responsibility on the Government of Lebanon to control the use of force that is launched from its territory against a neighbouring sovereign state. In the absence of that, the Government of Israel has an unequivocal duty to take the steps it deems necessary to protect its civilian population from the violent acts of an apparently uncontrolled terrorist group which operates from across its border.

The tragic deaths of Lebanese civilians on Thursday underscore the urgent need to secure the Israeli-Lebanese border and prevent Hezbollah from cynically and cruelly using Lebanese civilians as human shields when firing their Katyusha rockets at Israeli civilians.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN DAVIS, Director,
British Israel Public Affairs Centre,
21-22 Great Sutton Street, EC1.
April 19.

Libraries at risk

From Mr Patrick M. Forman

Sir, Your correspondents who seek to save Great Smith Street library from closure (letter, April 17) may or may not know that when a similar fate hung over London's Belsize library in 1991 its readers sought a judicial review of Camden Council's decision to close it. They were granted leave for a hearing in the High Court, whereupon the council revoked its decision and the library remained open.

Cambridge's Mill Road library is one of four libraries recently closed by the county, following years of attrition of the kind described by your correspondents. This listed building has now been boarded up in its centenary year, despite the words "Free Library" built in brick into its handsome facade.

To assuage widespread protests by its users, the county and city authorities have been driven to suggest various milk-and-water community uses for the building. Friends of the library, with the precedent of Camden in mind, are nonetheless campaigning to reinstate its original purpose in full.

As your correspondents aptly demonstrate, libraries can no longer safely be left in the hands of local authorities who show themselves blind to their cultural, social and educational value. Central Government must indeed now take a hand in preserving these foundations of a civilised society.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LLOYD,
Chaplain,
Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.
April 17.

Steam heat

From Dr Malcolm McCoubrie

Sir, In your leading article of April 16, occasioned by the identification of Henry VIII's Turkish bath at Whitehall Palace, you rightly distinguish between the spiritual and sybaritic aspects of hot-water bathing. You might also have mentioned another: the supposed healing effects of dissolved organic salts.

A good number of Henry VIII's subjects thought it worth while to visit Bath: one wonders if his advisers were aware of the growing popularity of the many London mineral springs and were persuaded by his physicians to place his Whitehall bath away from the springs.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM McCOUBRIE
St George's Hospital Medical School,
Department of Primary Care,
Tooting, SW17.

Spirit and substance

From the Chaplain of Fitzwilliam College

Sir, Mr John Pearson suggests (letter, April 17) that "Most present-day youngsters are influenced more by spiritually-minded human beings engaged in the real world than by priests". For which epithet, pray, do priests not qualify?

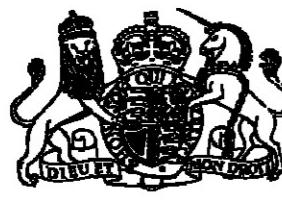
Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LLOYD,
Chaplain,
Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.
April 17.

power of the President, then yes, I am outraged.

If it is outrageous to work for the establishment of a genuine multi-party democracy in Kenya, built on the support of the people, then yes, I am outraged. If it is outrageous to want to see an uncensored and independent press in Kenya, in stark contrast to the biased and misinformed reporting that exists today, then yes, I am outraged.

I will continue to make such "outrageous" statements until we see real political reform in Kenya founded on genuine participatory democracy.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH MATIBA
(Chairman, Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Asili),
PO Box 48647,
Nairobi, Kenya.
April 12.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 19: The Duke of Edinburgh, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, this evening attended a dinner held to honour those who fought in Bomber Command in 1939-45 at the Officers' Mess, Strike Command, Royal Air Force High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 19: The Prince Edward, Trustee and Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning attended a Golf Tournament in support of the Award at the Sun Pier Golf Club, Tokushima, and later presented the prizes.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 19: The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this morning visited Strat-

clyde Knitwear Limited, Ballot Road, Irvine, Ayrshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Ayr and Arran (Major Richard Henderson).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Ayr Racecourse to open "The Princess Royal Stand".

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 19: The Duke of Kent, President-in-Chief, the British Racing Drivers' Club, this morning visited Benetton Formula Limited, Whiteways Technical Centre, Enstone, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, this evening attended a dinner at the Officers' Mess, Strike Command, Royal Air Force High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Gloucestershire Rugby Football Union, will attend the final of the county championship at Tewkesbury at 2.40.

The Duchess of Kent will attend the Yehudi Menuhin 80th birthday concert at the Albert Hall at 6.55.

TOMORROW: The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the National Playing Fields Association, will attend a charity cricket match at Wormsley, High Wycombe, at noon.

The Princess Royal, as President of BAFTA, will attend the BAFTA awards at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, at 3.15 and will attend a dinner at Grosvenor House afterwards.

The Duke of Kent, as president, will take the salute at the The Queen's Scout parade at Windsor Castle at 1.35.

Eltham College

The summer term commences on April 22 and ends on July 12. The Eltham College Community Orchestra and Choral Society concert will take place on April 25 at 7.30pm in the Blackheath Concert Halls. The new Eric Liddell Sports Centre will be opened by Mr Sebastian Coe on June 26 at 4.30pm, and the Old Elthamians Summer Reunion is to be held on July 6. Mr John Monks will be Guest of Honour at Speech Day on July 9.

Appointments

Mrs Caroline Jane Lloyd to be a full-time Immigration Adjudicator, designated a special adjudicator.

Mr Henry Hodge to be a member of the Legal Aid Board for three years from May 1. Mr Hodge will serve as deputy chairman.

Luncheons

Royal Society of St George

Sir Colin Cole was the guest speaker at a patronal celebration luncheon of the Sussex branch of the Royal Society of St George held yesterday at Lancing College. Squadron Leader Jack Dixon pre-sided.

Royal Aeronautical Society

Sir Donald Spiers, President of the Royal Aeronautical Society, was the host at a presidential luncheon held yesterday at 4 Hamilton Place, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, was among those present.

Australian British Chamber of Commerce (UK)

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Alderman and Sheriff Sir Peter Levens, was present at a luncheon of the Australian British Chamber of Commerce (UK) held yesterday at the Mansion House. Sir Peter Gadsden, president, and Mr Michael Whalley, chairman, received the guests. Sir John Egan was the guest of honour and principal speaker. The Agent General for South Australia attended.

Dinner

Old Ipswichian Club

Mr I.G. Galbraith, Headmaster of Ipswich School, was the principal guest at the London dinner of the Old Ipswichian Club held last night at the East India, Devonshire, Sports and Public Schools Club. Mr N.S. Cawthon, president of the OI Club, was in the chair. Mr Nils Blythe also spoke.

Service dinner

Royal Engineers (Transportation)

Lieutenant-Colonel E.P. Basley presided at the 65th reunion of the Royal Engineers (Transportation) Officers' Dinner Club held last night at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

University news

Oxford

Prize in Law Moderations

Maxwell Prize for the best overall performance: Benjamin J. Parker, St Hugh's College.

Slaughter & May Prize for the best performance in individual subjects:

Roman Law: Benjamin J. Parker, St Hugh's College; Criminal Law: Susannah M. Cogman, Keble College; Constitutional Law: Jonathan D. Parker, St Hugh's College; Introduction to Law: David P. Manknell, University College.

Latest wills

Ruth Kathrina Ericson, of London NW3, left £60,000 to her son, £77,361 to her daughter, £1,000 to her husband, £1,000 to the Uniting Church in Australia, £1,000 to Sydney. Other estates include, net before tax: Mr Alan Hugh George Murley, of Cambridge £609,886.

Weekend birthdays



John Mortimer, QC, barrister, playwright and author, is 73 tomorrow; Nicholas Lyndhurst, actor, is 35 today

The Queen celebrates her 70th birthday tomorrow.

TODAY: Viscount Allenby, 65; Mr Alan Beith, MP, 53; Professor D.W. Bowett, QC, former President, Queens' College, Cambridge, 69; Mr Ray Brooks, actor, 57; Sir Geoffrey Chipperfield, civil servant, 63; the Right Rev F.C. Darwent, former Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, 69; Mr Richard de Lange, chairman and managing director, Philips Electronics UK, 51; Major-General Sir Charles Dunphie, 94; the Earl of Erroll, 48; Mr Sebastian Faulks, author, 43; Professor Francis Fish, former Dean, School of Pharmacy, London University, 72; Mr Graeme Fowler, cricketer, 39; Sir Arnold France, former chairman, Board of Inland Revenue, 85; Mr John Eliot Gardiner, conductor, 53; Mr Mauricio Gugelmil, racing driver, 33; Mr Jerry Hayes, MP, 43; Mr Giles Henderson, senior partner, Slaughter and May, 54; Mr Andrew Jaspan, former Editor, *The Observer*,

44; Sir Antony Jay, scriptwriter and producer, 66; Sir Eddie Kulukundis, theatrical producer, 64; Miss Jessica Lange, actress, 47; Mr Cy Laurie, jazz clarinettist, 70; Mr Leslie Phillips, actor, 72; Mr Eric Pickles, MP, 44; Sir John Quicke, agriculturist, 74; Mr R.D. Rhodes, Headmaster, Rossall School, Lancashire, 54; Mr Hugh Roberts, Director of the Royal Collection, 48; Mr Christopher Robinson, organist, 60; Mr R.J. Smith, former chairman, Trimo, 57; Miss Jean Southworth, QC, 70; Mr Gerald Steinberg, MP, 51; Mr Luther Vandross, singer, 45; Air Marshal Sir Richard Wakeford, 74; Mr Henry Wrong, former director, Barbican Centre, 66.

TOMORROW: Mrs Angela Barrett, tennis champion, 64; Professor Gerald Benney, goldsmith and silversmith, 66; Mr LW. Bruce, director-general, RNIB, 51; Sir George Burton, former chairman, Fisons, 80; Mr Laurence Ellis, former Rector, Edinburgh Academy, 64; Miss Cheryl Gillan, MP, 44; Mr Robin Gourlay, chairman, Anglican Water, 57; Mr J.M. Greenwood, former senior partner, Nabarro Nathanson, 61; Air Marshal Sir John Hunter-Tod, 79; Sir Robin Ibsb, chairman, Lloyds TSB Group, 70; Mr John McCabe, former director, London College of Music, 57; Dr Halldan Mahler, former secretary-general, IPPF, 73; Mr Iain Mills, MP, 56; Sir Geoffrey Palmer, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 54; Mr Ben Paterson, former MEP, 57; Mr Anthony Quinn, actor, 81; Sir Alexander Stone, lawyer and banker, 89; Major-General Sir John Swinton, Lord-Lieutenant of Berwickshire, 71; the Earl of Verulam, 45.

Anniversaries

TODAY

BIRTHS: Napoleon III, French Emperor 1852-70, Paris, 1808; Adolf Hitler, German dictator, Branaum Inn, Austria, 1889; Harold Lloyd, film comedian, Burchard, Nebraska, 1893; Joan Miró, abstract painter, Barcelona, 1893.

DEATHS: Eliza Burton, the "Maid of Kent", executed, London, 1545; Giovanni Antonio Canaletto, painter, Venice, 1768; Pontiac, chief of the Ottawa Indians, Cahokia, Illinois, 1769; Arthur Young, agriculturist, London, 1820; Bram Stoker, writer, author of *Dracula*, London, 1912; Archibald MacLeish, poet and dramatist, Paris, 1896.

DEATHS: St Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury 1093-1109, Canterbury, 1109; Peter Abelard, theologian, Chalon-sur-Saône, 1142; King Henry VII, reigned 1485-1501, Richmond, Surrey, 1509; Jean Racine, dramatist, Paris, 1699; Prince Eugene of Savoy, soldier and statesman, Vienna, 1736; Mark Twain, writer, Redding, Connecticut, 1910;

naval surgeon, founder of Cape Town, Culemborg, The Netherlands, 1619; John Law, economist, Edinburgh, 1671; Friedrich Froebel, educator, Overweissbach, Germany, 1782; Reginald Heber, bishop and hymn writer, Malpas, Cheshire, 1783; Charlotte Brontë, writer, Thornton, Yorkshire, 1816; Hippolyte Adolphe Taine, philosopher and historian, Vouziers, France, 1828; Sir Herbert Baker, manipulative surgeon, Southport, 1869; Henry de Montherlant, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1896.

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The Texans defeated Mexico at the Battle of San Jacinto, 1836.

The City of Rome was founded by Romulus, 753 BC.

Brasilia was inaugurated as the new capital of Brazil, 1960.

Chinese students poured into Peking's Tiananmen Square, ignoring government warnings of severe punishment, 1989.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

OBITUARIES

Kalim Siddiqui, director of the Muslim Institute, died in Pretoria on April 18 aged 62. He was born in July 1933.

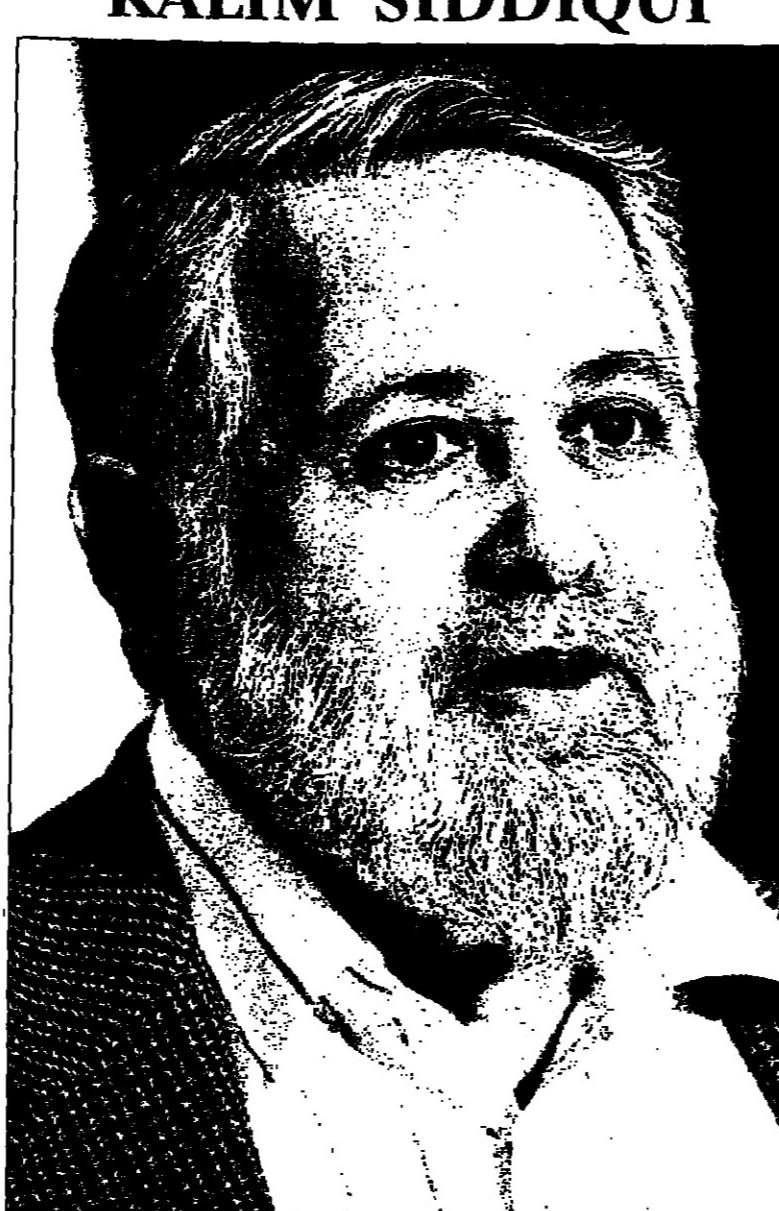
A RABBLE-ROUSING firebrand, who thrived on conflict, Kalim Siddiqui was one of Britain's most radical Islamic leaders. His condemnation of Western involvement in the Gulf, his public endorsements of the fatwa against Salman Rushdie, and his call for Islamic revolution aroused belligerent controversy. Although he had no spiritual authority, he styled himself as the spokesman of Britain's nearly 1.5 million Muslims, founding the London-based Muslim Institute and calling for the establishment of a non-territorial Islamic parliament.

Regarding the West as a sink of corruption, he denounced it in apocalyptic terms. At times he seemed almost to be daring the British Government to prosecute him, calculating, perhaps, that he would be seen as a martyr if convicted, and a hero if let free. His extreme rantings certainly made him something of a favourite with television producers. However, among the majority of more moderate Muslims, he was seen as a dangerous fanatic, an isolated voice within the Islamic community who had set back its interests with promotions of religious superiority.

Kalim Siddiqui's sub-continental origins may partly explain his aggressive defence of Islam. He was born near Hyderabad in southern India, but grew up in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, in northern India where his father was a junior police inspector and small landowner. Even as a schoolboy he was embroiled in religious conflict as, in the months before partition, Hindus and Muslims attacked each other in the classrooms. The seeds of his future fusion of faith and politics were sown as, at election time, he would help the old men and women of his neighbourhood along the dusty tracks to the polling booths.

After partition in 1947, the Hindu-Muslim conflict escalated murderously and the embittered Siddiqui family migrated to Pakistan and became refugees living in a two-room hotel in Karachi. The young Kalim failed to complete his studies. He sold vegetables and slept rough on the streets before joining the Pakistani Army as an officer cadet. But, already a Muslim militant, he was dismissed, he claimed, for insisting on washing himself in the lavatory with water in the Muslim style, instead of using paper as a colonial would. He became active in student politics, editing a Karachi broadsheet *The Leader*, run by an Islamist group, and blazoned with such headlines as "Can Humanity Disown God?"

In 1954 Siddiqui was sent to London to learn journalism, and, after working on a number of local papers, he joined *The Guardian* — a paper whose liberal vision he always claimed to cherish — as a sub-editor. While working night shifts, he pursued his studies part-time, starting with O levels and



cumulating with a PhD from University College London. His thesis followed Max Weber's line that conflict has a positive role in society.

Siddiqui took this sense of conflict very much to heart, becoming increasingly convinced that Western society fostered a deep-seated animus against Muslim culture, dating back to the Crusades. He was prominent among Britain's earliest Islamic activists. During the Suez crisis he was to be found demonstrating in Trafalgar Square, and at the time of the Algerian War he went to Paris to march in protest up the Champs-Elysées.

In 1972 he turned his back on journalism to found the Muslim Institute, based in Bloomsbury and funded by subscriptions from members and donations from Muslims all over the world. Its aim, he explained, was to counteract the way in which Western political thought had penetrated that of Islam by working to disengage the two at an intellectual level. He himself became director.

For some years he lived quietly, like

many a self-made member of the lower-middle classes, in a semi-detached house in Slough with crazy-paved front garden and a BMW parked outside. "If there was a competition to find the most assimilated Muslim in Great Britain I would win first prize," he once declared, with a characteristic high-pitched giggle. His domineering half-moon spectacles and avuncular cardigan-clad figure seemed to confirm this. But from a photograph in his book-lined study the Ayatollah Khomeini glared down sternly, contrasting oddly with the suburban scene.

The 1979 Iranian revolution was the turning point in Siddiqui's life. It established for the first time the sort of state that his theories advocated — a newly self-confident version of Islam, contemptuous of everything Western. Siddiqui became a radical Muslim fundamentalist calling for a special relationship between British Muslims and Iran. As a frequent visitor to Tehran, he became a highly regarded guest of the Government.

In 1989 Siddiqui found notoriety in

Britain with his endorsement of Khomeini's fatwa against Salman Rushdie. Indeed, evidence suggested that Siddiqui's opinions about Rushdie confirmed Khomeini in his belief that the author deserved to die. He campaigned for the total and unconditional withdrawal of Satanic Verses from sale, suggesting that any prior proceeds from the novel should be given to families of victims who died protesting against it in Pakistan and India.

In October 1989, at a meeting in Manchester, he requested all present to raise their hands in agreement that Salman Rushdie should be "put away". The meeting ended with more than 300 Muslims chanting "death to Rushdie". But Siddiqui — much to Rushdie's distress — narrowly escaped being prosecuted for incitement to murder on the ground that there was insufficient evidence to justify criminal prosecution.

Although he obstinately persisted in reissuing the fatwa, intent on keeping Rushdie "in a rabbit hole" for the rest of his life — and threatening that any others tempted to go down the same road would suffer the same fate — his casuistry sheltered him from formal prosecution. Even this year he went against the softer line recently indicated by Iran, declaring — to the annoyance of President Rafsanjani — that the death edict against Rushdie remained in force.

In 1990 Siddiqui aroused further controversy with the issue of his *Muslim Manifesto*, excoriating every aspect of British life from the legal system to the morality of what he described as a "post-Christian, largely pagan, secular society".

This manifesto set out Siddiqui's own uncompromising views on everything from the need for a non-territorial Muslim parliament, to separate schools, dress and inheritance rights. He even suggested the imposition of a tax on all Muslims to be used for campaigns against those who did not conform with Islamic teachings. "Let us make it quite clear," he said on January 4, 1992, as 155 Muslim delegates assembled for the first time at Kensington Town Hall, "Muslims will oppose, and if necessary defy, any policy or legislation which we regard as inimical to our interests".

Siddiqui refused ever to compromise and continued in his work, fundraising in South Africa, Iran and the Gulf States, notwithstanding his two heart attacks and heart bypass operation. In a press interview he expressed enthusiasm for Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, saying that he hoped the Iraqis would "smash on to Riyadh" — and this was despite the fact that, as one of Iran's leading apologists, he was not inclined to be well disposed towards Iraq. Earlier this year he wrote a letter to *The Times* criticising the Government for its plans to deport Muhammad al-Masari.

Kalim Siddiqui is survived by his wife, Surayya, whom he married in 1960, and by a son and a daughter. Another son died of a brain haemorrhage at the age of four.

CANON PETER GILLINGHAM

Canon Peter Gillingham, LVO, Chaplain to the Queen, 1952-84, died on April 4 aged 81. He was born on May 3, 1914.

BY REASON of his stature and good looks, Peter Gillingham always commanded respect and attention. This was just as well, since many of his views and ideas could have been regarded as bordering on the over-risky. During one of the most settled periods in an active and varied ministry — from 1960 to 1977 when he was vicar of Horsham — he was often at odds with the diocesan authorities.

Sensitive to the wishes of his congregation, he was ready to introduce not only variations in the conventional church services of the day but also to start entirely new ones — such as the Easter Midnight Mass and the Parish Choral Eucharist at 9.15am, which is now at St Mary's, Horsham, the main Sunday service.

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Kalim Siddiqui is survived by his wife, Surayya, whom he married in 1960, and by a son and a daughter. Another son died of a brain haemorrhage at the age of four.



At the direct request of Cuthbert Bardsey, then Bishop of Croydon, Peter Gillingham was in 1955 appointed vicar of St Mildred's, Addiscombe, moving from there to Horsham in 1960. His long career continued with the chaplaincy at Sherborne School for Girls (where his wife was appointed a housemistress). There were in addition spells in South Africa and South Carolina in the United States before his final retirement to Aldeburgh in Suffolk. Here he could indulge in his favourite and lifelong passion for sailing.

Having taken part in the Fastnet race and "crewed" with friends in ocean-going yachts, he was able to be his own captain aboard the cabin-cruiser *Enid Mayrin* which he explored at length in the navigable waters of East Anglia and instructed his "amateur" crew in the complexities of boat control. It was an environment in which his outstanding qualities of leadership and humour could be given full expression. With the additional lure of the golf course and the local fund of classical and choral musical activity, in which he took a full part, life remained energetic and busy almost to the end of his life.

He married Diana (née Hood) in 1947. She survives him with their four children, the eldest of whom is rector of St Clement's, Oxford.

JOY NEWTON

Joy Newton, founder member of the Royal Ballet and later its ballet mistress, died on April 4 aged 82. She was born in May 1913.

JOY NEWTON'S most famous dancing role was the cancan part of the Ballad Singer in *The Rake's Progress*, which Ninette de Valois had created for her at the ballet's premiere in 1935. Made up as a raddled old woman (she was only 22 at the time), Newton came on during the scene where the Rake enjoys himself among "ladies of the town", and entertained the party with a drunken and disreputable song. Although her voice was represented by the orchestra, she was required to mouth suggestive words, reputedly written by Constant Lambert. Lip-reading ballerinettes today still sing along under their breath the verses having been

passed along between enthusiasts down the years.

De Valois' brother, the photographer Gordon Anthony, described Newton's performance as "a salaciously comic vignette of the sleazy and genial street singer". Besides this one moment, Newton's stage career was not especially glamorous; hers was the sort of reliable but secondary talent which is cast as the queen in *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty* and as the princess or as the heroine's mother in *Giselle*. But she was perspicacious, taking in all that happened around her, and she was sensible.

Also she endured; as a pupil of Ninette de Valois' grandly named Academy of Choreographic Art from about 1927, she was one of the six young women who became the initial members of the opera ballet at the Old Vic theatre two years later.

Scarcely had she taken up her new responsibilities when in May 1940 the company was sent on a goodwill tour to the Netherlands, then still neutral. After British wartime

privations, the dancers were delighted by the bright lights and ample food on their opening night in The Hague. But subsequent performances took them to towns close to the German border, and after only four days of the planned ten performances the Germans invaded. There followed a worrying two days confined to their hotel amid the sound of bombs and gunfire, and another 48 hours sheltered in the Dutch countryside before embarking, amid hundreds of other refugees, in the hold of a cargo boat at Ijmuiden for the 15-hour journey to Harwich. Joy Newton was one of seven group leaders appointed by de Valois to take a roll call of their own detachment at every halt and departure, to ensure that nobody was left behind amid all the confusion, and mainly night-time travel. Eventually they all arrived safely home, but without most

of their personal possessions or the scenery, costumes and scores for several ballets.

Even after they had recovered from that experience, times were not easy for the Sadler's Wells (later Royal) Ballet. The repertoire had to be maintained and replenished in spite of the constant loss of male dancers — and even the chief choreographer Frederick Ashton — to war service. And this with an itinerary of long tours all over Britain, interspersed with short London seasons, dancing seven or eight performances a week.

In an essay published in a pamphlet about *The Sleeping Beauty* in 1946, Joy Newton described her duties: devising rehearsal and class schedules to fit in with the dancers' other commitments; conducting rehearsals when the choreographer was not present, and attending all others to learn the new works; arranging replacements whenever a dancer was ill, injured or given another role (this task was complicated by questions of costume size and shortage of materials); besides acting as the centre of communications between all departments, wardrobe, scenery, music etc.

Then there were innumerable lists to be made and amended. She seems to have done jobs shared among at least half a dozen people today, but calmly wrote that "it is amazing how much work can be done in small corners and odd half-hours".

However, after the company's opening season at Covent Garden in 1946, Newton left to become the first teacher and principal of the ballet school which the Turkish Government had asked de Valois to set up in Istanbul. She stayed there from 1947 to 1951, and met her husband, Walter Postlethwaite there. They married in 1949. She also went back later to help to mount *Giselle* and *Les Rendezvous* for dancers from the Turkish school, and taught at the Royal Ballet School in London from 1963 to 1969.

After her husband's death, she ran a small antique shop in Kent. Although both of them were long retired, she and her successor as ballet mistress at Covent Garden, Jean Bidell, reconstructed de Valois' ballet *Job* for Birmingham Royal Ballet to mark the work's 50th anniversary in 1991. She remained active despite her years, and her death was blessedly sudden, while working in her garden. She leaves no survivors.



Joy Newton in Frederick Ashton's *Apparitions*, 1937

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FLYING DUTCHMAN

NEWS

Traitor Blake gets memoir royalties

The Government reacted with astonishment when a High Court judge ruled that George Blake, the traitor who lives in Moscow, should be allowed to receive £90,000 in royalties from his memoirs. Sir Richard Scott's judgment cast doubt on the Government's policy of binding members of the intelligence and security services to lifelong silence..... Page 1

Israel warns Jews of revenge attacks

Israel warned all Jewish citizens travelling abroad and Jewish institutions overseas to be on guard against revenge attacks after Thursday's massacre of Arabs sheltering at a United Nations base in southern Lebanon. In Moscow, world leaders backed diplomatic efforts to stop the fighting..... Pages 1, 12, 13, 21

Rugby victim wins

A rugby player won a legal battle against the referee he blamed for leaving him paralysed. He had sued for £1 million: damages may be decided later..... Pages 1, 20

In good heart

The latest recipient of a mechanical heart, which obviates the need for a human transplant, pedalled an exercise bicycle and looked forward to tangoing..... Page 4

Farmer's £10m legacy

A reclusive bachelor farmer from Somerset has been left £10 million in the will of his aunt, the wife of a brewing magnate..... Page 5

The Queen is 70

The Queen will celebrate her 70th birthday at Sandringham and Windsor tomorrow with family and close friends..... Pages 7, 21

Off the road

Ministers have scrapped plans to privatisate the entire main road network..... Page 8

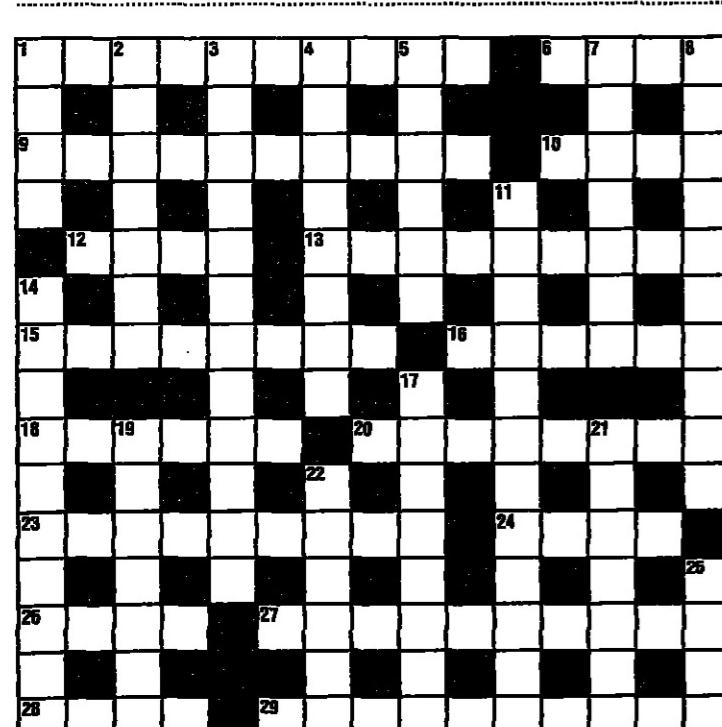
Ballerina looks askance at Look!

Look!, the Tories' breezy new tabloid designed to trumpet the Government's achievements, dismayed several people featured in it, including Darcy Bussell, Scunthorpe United football club and a businessman who said he could not vote Tory..... Page 1

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,147

ABERLICUP A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address _____



- ACROSS**
- Make good partners, getting highest mark in contest (10).
 - Tough and hard in a small boat (4).
 - A goose, a goat, and an ass (5-5).
 - Neighbourhood north from stadium (4).
 - We may hear a lot from this social gathering (4).
 - Proper sign to follow in US elections (6).
 - Ungraciously occupied girl shut up (8).
 - Ravel piece of jacks (6).
 - Layoff affected this part of Ireland (6).
 - Travel document needed while away at seaside? (8).
 - Guilelessness shown previously, taking in church after pub (9).
 - Sailor disheartened lady? Well! (4).
 - I remove from bed cut flower (4).
 - Transfer of soldiers that's ending after short time (10).
 - Almost dark, but not quite (4).
 - How minister should behave in life, according to speech (10).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,141

- OXBOW HAVE A BASH**
F O I N E D L O
FIRELIGHT ALBUM
T E L H E G A E
HYDRO WORCESTER
E I A A R
PAISLEY NOISOME
E N E N S S
GUARDIAN CRESSET
L O R B R
STABLEBOY RASTA
G S A S SIAN
RITZY LITTERBUG
V I U E A T L E
BACKPEDAL YIELD

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: S. Kidd, St Andrews, Fife; C. Collier, Tonbridge, Kent; P. Fries, Glastonbury Park, Bristol; B. Wilcock, Merton, West Sussex; J. Frost, St Edmunds, Suffolk.

THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD, 1996. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other formats by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, E1 9AT. International 011-700 5000 and also printed at Killing Head, Preston, Lancashire PR2 9LT. Tel: 01254 214 2000. E-mail: times@times.co.uk. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office, telephone 01254 214 2000. E-mail: times@times.co.uk.

NATURE NOTES



Dove
(Peres israelis)
Is having to adapt in
a hostile environment.
Now hawkish.

Two-headed Eagle
(Cetopsina vodka)
Erratic flight path.
Prone to seeing double.

Threatened species
of the world

Greytit
(Majors rediviva)
Last sighting in
S.E. Staffs could
be gone by next
Spring.

Peter Brookes

OPINION

Long to reign: Tomorrow the Queen will be 70 and the nation will have rich cause to celebrate..... Page 21

Amber alert: Politically, this is the right time for Britain to stand up for Hong Kong on legal principle..... Page 21

Child benefit: Labour's scheme is a sensible redirection of resources..... Page 21

THE PAPERS

Surely Lebanon and Syria understand by now the cost of indulging Hezbollah. All sides must suspend the fighting — *The New York Times*..... Page 23

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Simon Jenkins: Most reasonable people will be gasping at the decision in the case of the rugby referee..... Page 20

Giles Worsley: the millennium wheel proposed for the South Bank is portrayed as an altruistic gesture. But we will not be allowed to forget that it was British Airways that gave it to us..... Page 20

BUSINESS

Power: Hanson's Eastern Group was poised to buy power stations worth more than £1.3 billion..... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index closed at 3857.1, up 36.4 points. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.6 to 83.9 after a fall from \$1.5292 to \$1.5173 but a rise from DM2.2560 to DM2.2853..... Page 28

DEPARTURES

Kalim Siddiqui, the Muslim Institute; Canon Peter Gillingham, Chaplain to the Queen, 1952-84; Joy Newton, Royal Ballet..... Page 23

LETTERS

Labour policies; the 1963 premiership; destruction of art; Israel; libraries at risk; BR logo..... Page 21

SPORT

Cricket: Michael Atherton will resume the England captaincy with an optimism difficult to contemplate after the World Cup..... Page 48

Athletics: Britain's leading men should play a prominent part in the Flora London Marathon, potentially the most absorbing race in its 16-year history..... Page 48

Football: The Football Association will not change England's multicoloured away goalkeeper's kit..... Page 48

Golf: Colin Montgomerie recovers form in the United States..... Page 47

FORECAST

General: Northernmost England will have a cloudy day with patchy rain. Remaining parts of England and Wales will also be rather cloudy at times but with some warm brighter spells at times. Through the afternoon showers are likely to develop, however and more general rain will spread to the west later. Northern Ireland and much of Scotland will be cloudy with rain at times. Brighter weather with a few showers in the far north should slowly edge north.

London, SE & E England, E

England, Central S & Central N

Wales, NW England, Channel Isles,

N. Wales, NW England,云

Central Midlands, East Midlands,

Lincoln & Humberside, Dyfed & Powys, Gwent & Monmouthshire, NW England,云

Wales,云

North-east England,云

North-east England,云

North-west England,云

North-east England,云